

Petenaeaceae - a new family of flowering plants

March 17 2011



Petenaea cordata (Image: M. Vorontsova)

(PhysOrg.com) -- A new family of flowering plants has been described to accommodate *Petenaea cordata*, a species of uncertain affinities.

Petenaea cordata, a species from northern Central America, has been included in Elaeocarpaceae and Tiliaceae, but its familial placement has been uncertain. It was considered a taxon incertae sedis by the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (APG III).

Molecular phylogenetic analyses based on a recent collection made in Guatemala revealed a distant sister-group relationship to the African [genus](#) Gerrardina (Gerrardinaceae, Huerteales). However, a comparison of morphological and anatomical characters did not identify any obvious synapomorphies for Gerrardina and Petenaea, and a new monotypic family, *Petenaeaceae*, has been described in a paper in the *Botanical*

Journal of the Linnean Society by scientists from the Natural History Museum, Kew and the University of San Carlos de [Guatemala](#).

The polymorphic order Huerteales now comprises four small families, *Dipentodontaceae*, *Gerrardinaceae*, *Petenaeaceae* and *Tapisciaceae*.

Provided by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Citation: *Petenaeaceae* - a new family of flowering plants (2011, March 17) retrieved 28 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2011-03-petenaeaceae-family.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.