

Taxonomy of *Cryptocarya* species of Brazil

This revision of Brazilian species of *Cryptocarya*, a large, pantropical genus of Lauraceae, comes highly recommended.

Lauraceae is an extensive family of trees that has remained poorly studied because large trees with small flowers are often ignored by field workers. In a time when so much botanical research is focused on relationships between taxa, it is refreshing to see such a detailed work on species delimitation in a previously inaccessible group. Everything one could want to know about neotropical *Cryptocarya* species is included: keys, descriptions, illustrations, use, etc. In short, this is a monograph in the classical sense.

The author has studied the species extensively in the field and this field knowledge adds much to the value of this taxonomic review and sets it apart from most revisions that often are largely based on studies of dried specimens. Here, detailed discussions of field characters and photographs of fresh specimens are aptly integrated.

In conclusion, this is an excellent contribution to our knowledge of Lauraceae and the author is to be congratulated. One could only wish for more publications on the same high level!

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