


Variation in dichogamy and myophily in two dioecious *Bridelia* species (Phyllanthaceae)

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Abstract. Duodichogamy and multi-cycle dichogamy are rare forms of temporal separation of staminate and pistillate reproductive functions in angiosperms. We studied the floral phenology, breeding system and pollination of *Bridelia retusa* (L.) A.Juss. and *Bridelia moonii* Thwaites, with a particular focus on the alternation of sexual phases to determine variation in their dichogamy. Three dichogamy patterns were identified in *B. retusa*, including one-cycle dichogamy (staminate → pistillate or pistillate → staminate), duodichogamy (staminate → pistillate → staminate), multi-cycle dichogamy (repeated flowering cycles alternating between staminate and pistillate) and pure staminate. Except for multi-cycle dichogamy, the other dichogamy patterns were prevalent in *B. moonii*. This study speculated floral mimicry system in *Bridelia* associated with blowflies.

Keywords: blowflies, dichogamy, sexual phases, floral phenology, staminate, pistillate, pollination, duodichogamy, blowfly, *Bridelia*, Phyllanthaceae.

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