

The genus *Metastelma* (Asclepiadoideae-Asclepiadeae-Metastelmatinae) in South America

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Molecular and morphological analyses are used to circumscribe the genus *Metastelma* in South America. In northern South America, fourteen species are identified, nine of them new; and two species are found in southern South America, one of them new. The northern South American lineage is retrieved as sister to a clade comprising the type species of *Metastelma*, *M. parviflorum*, one of several Caribbean lineages. The southern South American lineage remains unresolved. The Central American lineage remains poorly supported monophyletic, but includes a species from Jamaica, *M. priorii*. Several specimens from the Andes of Argentina and Bolivia are retrieved in a well-supported clade outside *Metastelma* s.s. For these specimens, a new genus is described comprising presently seven species. Four of these species are transferred from *Metastelma*, one from *Ditassa*, and two species are described as new *Stelmation* E.Fourn. is resurrected, comprising presently a single species, *S. myrtifolium* from Brazil. *Metastelma giuliettianum* and *M. harleyi*, also from Brazil, are excluded from *Metastelma*, but cannot yet be transferred to another genus, because the taxonomy of Metastelmatinae is still in flux. Thus, *Metastelma* s.s. is absent from Brazil.