

PRODUCTION OF FLORAL MORPHS IN CLEISTOGAMOUS *RUELLIA BREVIFOLIA* (POHL) C. EZCURRA (ACANTHACEAE) AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF WATER AVAILABILITY

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This study provides new information about the sexual reproductive strategy of *Ruellia brevifolia*. We investigated whether the production of cleistogamous (CL) and chasmogamous (CH) floral morphs is affected by water availability in plants grown in a greenhouse. Two levels of soil water availability were tested: soil with 100% (moist soil, control) and soil with 50% (drought stress) of water-holding capacity. Additionally, we investigated fruit and seed production in plants in these two levels of water availability and evaluated whether the drought stress interferes with vegetative growth. The results showed that water availability is the primary factor of induction of floral morph production: plants in moist soil produced only CH morphs and water-stressed plants produced only CL morphs. Drought stress compromises fruit and seed production and vegetative growth; both were higher in plants in moist soil.



Ruellia brevifolia