



Four new species of the genus *Racinaea* (Bromeliaceae) from Ecuador

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Abstract

Four new species belonging to the genus *Racinaea* (formerly *Tillandsia* subgenus *Pseudo-Catopsis*, Bromeliaceae) from Ecuador are described and illustrated here. The new species *R. condorensis* from the province of Zamora-Chinchipec in the southern region of Ecuador is similar to *R. contorta*. *Racinaea guacamayosensis* from the Cordillera de los Guacamayos, an area close to Tena in the province of Napo, has close affinity with *R. diffusa* and *R. penlandii*. *Racinaea terrestris* from the province of Morona-Santiago, southern Ecuador, is also similar to *R. diffusa*. The new species *R. tillii* from the cloudy, cool mountain forest on the Amazonian side of the Andes in Napo province, is very alike *R. penlandii*. Distinguishing characters between these species are provided.

Key words: Taxonomy, Flora of Ecuador, *Pseudo-Catopsis*, *Tillandsia*, *Tillandsioideae*

Resumen

Los autores, Manzanares y Gouda, describen e ilustran cuatro nuevas especies pertenecientes al género *Racinaea* (previo subgénero *Pseudo-Catopsis* en *Tillandsia*, Bromeliaceae) de Ecuador y proveen la información morfológica que las distinguen de las especies relacionadas. *Racinaea condorensis* de la provincia de Zamora-Chinchipec, región situada al sureste del Ecuador, y está relacionada con *R. contorta*. *Racinaea guacamayosensis* de la Cordillera de los Guacamayos, área cerca de Tena en la provincia de Napo, relacionada con *R. diffusa* y *R. penlandii*. *Racinaea terrestris* de la provincia de Morona-Santiago, al sureste del Ecuador, está relacionada con *R. diffusa*. *Racinaea tillii* del bosque nublado en la vertiente Amazónica de los Andes, en la provincia de Napo, esta relacionada con *R. penlandii*.

Palabras clave: Taxonomía, Flora del Ecuador, *Pseudo-Catopsis*, *Tillandsia*, *Tillandsioideae*

Introduction

During several expeditions to different parts of Ecuador, species of the genus *Racinaea* (Tillandsioideae), former subgenus *Pseudo-Catopsis* of *Tillandsia*, were studied in preparation for the publication of volume three in the 'Jewels of the Jungle, Bromeliaceae of Ecuador' series (previous vols.: Manzanares 2002, Manzanares 2005). Ecuador appears to be the center of biodiversity for this enigmatic genus, which has been poorly studied in the past due to the indistinguishability of species based on herbarium vouchers alone. Most *Racinaea* species have tiny flowers that look alike when dried. Recent field and cultivation studies, where the flowers could be studied fresh, have led to the description of many new species (Gouda & Manzanares 2008, Höpfel & Scharf 2008, Luther 2007, Manzanares & Till 2007). Four new species of *Racinaea* were recently discovered and are presented below.