



## A new species of *Oxalis* section *Palmatifoliae* (Oxalidaceae) from southern Argentina

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### Abstract

A new species of *Oxalis* from Santa Cruz, Argentina is described. The new species, *Oxalis morronei*, belongs to *O.* section *Palmatifoliae* because of its general morphology and distribution, but differs from the other species included in that section by having square leaflets with the apices deeply emarginate, the bases slightly cordate and its margin wavy and ciliate. The new species is illustrated and affinities with other members of *O.* section *Palmatifoliae* are herein explained.

### Introduction

*Oxalis* L. is a cosmopolitan genus that is comprised of approximately 700 species worldwide, but most species are found in three principal centers. In South America the genus presents the greatest morphological variation and the highest number of taxa (ca 250 spp.). The great variation in life-form shows that *Oxalis* has adapted to almost every environment (Knuth 1930, Macbride 1949, Lourteig 1982, 1983, 1988, 1994, 2000).

Species of *Oxalis* are highly variable in their vegetative characters. They can be annual or perennial herbs, or, rarely, subshrubs or trees, and often have subterranean structures such as rhizomes, corms, tubers, tuberous roots or true bulbs (Salter 1944). Leaves are alternate and trifoliolate or multifoliolate, and leaflets are entire to obcordately bilobed, sometimes bifurcate. In spite of their vegetative diversity, the species display a limited variability in flower morphology, with flowers that are uniformly actinomorphic, funnel-shaped and pentamerous (Cronquist 1981).

During a recent exploration in Austral Patagonia, Argentina, we found a species of *Oxalis* with characteristics distinct from those known so far for the genus. This species, proposed and described here as new to science, is placed in *O.* section *Palmatifoliae* because it has a subterranean rhizome composed of storage scale leaves, numerous leaflets, and pink to violet solitary flowers. It differs from other species in this section by its quadrangulate deeply incised leaflets. Distinctive characteristics and their affinities with other members of the section are discussed.

### *Oxalis morronei* Alicia López & Múlgura, *sp. nov.*, Fig. 1 A–K

*Ad Oxalidem squamoso-radicosam affinis, sed foliolis quadratis apice emarginato et margine pilosulo et undulato differt.*

Type:—ARGENTINA. Santa Cruz: Dpto. Lago Buenos Aires. Ruta Provincial 41, camino de Los Antiguos a Paso Río Roballos, 47°57'49"S, 71°50'10"W, 1,247 m, 9 January 2011. L. Zavala, D. Degenaro, C. Guerreiro, A. López & H. Illarraga 204 (holotype SI!).