



A remarkable new *Pitcairnia* (Bromeliaceae) species from Peru

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Abstract

A new species of *Pitcairnia* subgenus *Pepinia* (*Pitcairnioideae*) is described and illustrated here. *Pitcairnia floresii* sp. nov. has been found in the Department San Martín of Peru and is locally abundant.

Key words: Flora of Peru, *Pepinia*, taxonomy

Introduction

This remarkable new *Pitcairnia* species with linear-lanceolate leaf blades and its red inflorescence with bright yellow flowers is rather common in the Central Huallaga River Valley area. The famous collector Richard Spruce was in this area in 1855 (León *et al.* 2003: 112), but as far as known no specimen of this species was preserved, nor was it collected afterwards. Another *Pitcairnia*, *P. calatheoides* Smith (1937: 24) has been described from the very same area, but is not closely related. The latter species has very long petiolate oblanceolate leaf blades and large orange petals. Mr. Alberto Flores, a farmer from Pucacaca, brought this beautiful species to our attention. From our study of Bromeliaceae of Peru several new species were recently described (Gouda & Manzanares 2008, Gouda 2012). The descriptive terminology of Scharf & Gouda (2008) is followed here.

Taxonomy

Pitcairnia floresii Gouda & Ric.Fernández, *sp.nov.*

Type:—PERU. Dept. San Martín: Prov. Picota, Pucacaca, Concesión Ojos de Agua, 503 m, Virgin forest, steep hill slope (35°) in stony places, 7 January 2011, R.Fernández, W.Rodríguez, A.Flores & F.Ramírez 3590 (holotype USM!, isotypes L!, USM!, WU!).

This new species resembles *Pitcairnia corallina* Linden & André but the inflorescence is not trailing on the ground and smaller in all flowering parts, with yellow petals (not red). The inflorescence resembles that of *P. sceptriformis* (subgenus *Pitcairnia*), but is secundly flowered (not erect) and shorter and erect pedunculate. The ovules are not caudate. The plant is stemless, not long caulescent as in *P. sceptriformis*.

Plant terrestrial, flowering ones 100–130 cm tall, acaulescent, forming groups, rosettes with 5–10 leaves, with inflorescence much shorter than the leaves. Leaves arching, fasciculate, dimorphic, persisting, petiolate. Transitory leaves reduced to a sheath-like structure, ca. 15 × 1.2 cm, lanceolate, stiffly papyraceous, entire,