



A new anisophyllous species of *Miconia* (Melastomataceae: Miconieae) from the Coastal Cordillera in northern Venezuela

FABIÁN A. MICHELANGELI¹ & WINFRIED MEIER^{2,3}

¹Institute of Systematic Botany, The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY 10458-5126, USA; e-mail: fabian@nybg.org

²Fundación Instituto Botánico de Venezuela, Dirección de Investigación y Desarrollo, Herbario Nacional de Venezuela, Apartado 2156, Caracas 1010-A, Venezuela.

³Present address: Institute of Silviculture, University of Freiburg, Tennenbacher Strasse 4, 79106 Freiburg, Germany; e-mail: winfried.meier@waldbau.uni-freiburg.de

Abstract

Miconia longidentata, a new species of Melastomataceae, Miconieae, from the Coastal Cordillera in northern Venezuela is described. This species is known from cloud and mid elevation forests in the Waraira Repano National Park (formerly known as Ávila National Park). *Miconia longidentata* is characterized by sessile to sub-sessile, dimorphic leaves, short axillary inflorescences, and four-merous flowers with long calyx teeth. By its character combination *Miconia longidentata* would have been described as *Clidemia*, but it is here described in *Miconia* due to ongoing taxonomic realignments in the Miconieae. The new species is compared to putative relatives, and a list of anisophyllous species traditionally placed in *Clidemia* is provided. A list of species of Melastomataceae endemic to the Coastal Cordillera in northern Venezuela is also included.

Key Words: anisophylly, Ávila National Park, *Clidemia*, dimorphic leaves, Miconieae, Waraira-Repano National Park

Resumen

Se describe *Miconia longidentata*, una especie nueva de Melastomataceae, Miconieae, proveniente de la Cordillera de la Costa en el norte de Venezuela. Esta especie nueva se conoce solo de bosques nublados y de elevación media en el Parque Nacional Waraira Repano (anteriormente conocido como Parque Nacional El Ávila). *Miconia longidentata* se caracteriza por la presencia de hojas sésiles a subsésiles, hojas dimórficas en cada nudo, inflorescencias cortas y axilares, y flores tetrámeras con largos dientes del cáliz. Dada su combinación de caracteres *Miconia longidentata* pudo haber sido descrita en *Clidemia*, pero debido a inminentes cambios en la taxonomía de la tribu es descrita en *Miconia*. Esta especie nueva es comparada con posibles especies relacionadas y se provee un lista de las especies anisófilas de *Clidemia*. También se incluye un listado de las especies de Melastomataceae endémicas a la Cordillera de la Costa en el Norte de Venezuela.

Introduction

The Coastal Cordillera of Venezuela is a mosaic of cloud forest and low elevation rain forest dissected by drier valleys and rain shadow areas. It comprises not only the range along the coast from the states of Yaracuy to Sucre, and the mountains in the island of Margarita, but also some lower elevation mountains inland from the main range (Duno de Stefano *et al.* 2009). This complex landscape has allowed the formation of several isolated forests that house a high amount of endemic plants (Steyermark 1979). Within the Melastomataceae at least 30 species are endemic to the Coastal Cordillera (Appendix 1), and several others either extend into the eastern Andes or the island of Trinidad, representing more than 10% of the endemic species in the region