



## *Mucuna jarocho* (Leguminosae-Papilionoideae-Phaseoleae), a new species from Mexico

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### Abstract

*Mucuna jarocho*, a new species of *Mucuna* endemic to Mexico, is here described and illustrated. It is similar to *M. holtonii*, but the wing petals are shorter than the standard in *M. holtonii* and longer than the standard in this new species.

**Key words:** Biodiversity, Fabaceae, Mesoamerica, Neotropics, New World, taxonomy

### Introduction

*Mucuna* Adanson (1763: 579), Leguminosae-Papilionoideae-Phaseoleae, is a pantropical genus of about 105 species (Schrire 2005). Within the tribe Phaseoleae, *Mucuna* is distinguished by the following combination of characters: plants unarmed, usually lianas; leaves pinnately trifoliolate; stipules not extended below the point/their points of attachment; abaxial surface of leaflets and calyces lacking yellow or orange gland dots; bracteoles frequently present; standard usually much shorter than keel petals; keel prominently beaked, the keel petals usually hardened and thickened at apex; anthers dimorphic, with 5 larger and (sub-)basifixed ones, and 5 smaller and versatile or dorsifixed ones; pods usually covered with bristly irritant trichomes; seeds usually large, globose, oblong or discoid.

There are 24 species of *Mucuna* occurring in the Neotropics, eleven of them being new to science (Moura, unpublished data) and five recently described (Moura *et al.* 2012, Moura *et al.* in press a, b). The centre of both diversity and endemism of *Mucuna* in the New World is tropical South America (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela) with 19 species, of which 12 are endemic. However, the Mesoamerican region presents a secondary centre of diversity, with 12 species, of which five are endemic.

Standley (1922) in a previous study reported only *Mucuna argyrophylla* Standley (1922: 509) as an endemic Mesoamerican species; Zamora (2010), in his treatment of plants from Costa Rica, suggested three new species from Costa Rica, two of them being endemic to Central America. One of them was described as *Mucuna monticola* Zamora, Moura & Azevedo (in Moura *et al.* 2012: 2), occurring in Costa Rica and Panama; a second one was described as *Mucuna globulifera* Moura, Zamora & Azevedo (in Moura *et al.* in press b), occurring in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia. A third one, designated by Zamora (2010) as “species A”, endemic from Costa Rica, is still waiting for description. During a survey of the genus *Mucuna* from the Neotropics by the first author of the present paper, a new species endemic to Veracruz, Mexico, was detected. This new species is here described and illustrated, and a geographical distribution map is presented.