



Cunila jaliscana (Lamiaceae) a new species from Jalisco, Mexico

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Abstract

Cunila jaliscana, an endemic species to Jalisco, Mexico, is described and illustrated. Morphologically similar to *C. lythrifolia*, it differs by its divaricate branches, smaller leaf blades, narrower inflorescences, bracts shorter than calyx, and white and erect flowers.

Resumen

Se describe e ilustra *Cunila jaliscana*, especie endémica de Jalisco, México. Morfológicamente similar a *C. lythrifolia*, de la que difiere por las ramas divaricadas, hojas más pequeñas, inflorescencias más angostas, brácteas más cortas que el cáliz y flores erectas de color blanco.

Key words: disjunct distribution, poleo, Sierra de Manatlán, tribe Mentheae

Introduction

The Lamiaceae is a highly diverse family in Mexico with 32 genera and 591 species, and with 65.82 % of species endemic (Martínez-Gordillo *et al.* 2013). *Cunila* (Linnaeus (1759: 1359) is a New World genus within the tribe Mentheae Dumortier (1827: 48), which is included by Harley *et al.* (2004) in subfamily Nepetoideae Luerssen (1882: 1016). It is characterized by a tubular 10–14-nerved calyx, 5 free teeth and hairy throat, a sub-bilabiate corolla and 2 exerted stamens. Delimitation between *Cunila* species is based on inflorescence, calyx and nutlet morphology (García-Peña, 2008). The ca. 18 species of *Cunila*, as currently circumscribed, present an interesting disjunct distribution. One group of species occurs from eastern United States to Panama, and another group inhabits southeastern Brazil, northeastern Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. However, a recent phylogenetic analysis of *Cunila* supports, to some degree, the separation of South American species into 1 or 2 independent genera (Agostini *et al.* 2012). Further phylogenetic analyses of additional DNA sequence data are required to better understand the composition and biogeography of the genus *Cunila*. Mexico has five endemic species and one more extends its range to Central America. Ongoing taxonomic work in the genus *Cunila* has shown the existence of a distinctive species in Jalisco, Mexico, and this is here formally described and illustrated.

Cunila jaliscana García-Peña & J.G.González, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–4)

C. lythrifoliae similis, sed ramis divaricatis, inflorescentiis angustioribus, bracteis quam calyce brevioribus et floribus erectis albis differt.

Type:—MEXICO. Jalisco. Mascota: Laguna de Juanacatlán, 1960 m, 17 March 1971 (fl.), R. González Tamayo 155 (Holotype IBUG!, isotypes CAS!, ENCB!, MICH!, TEX!).