



Rediscovery of *Arrabidaea chica* (Bignoniaceae) and *Entada polystachya* var. *polyphylla* (Fabaceae) in Puerto Rico

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Abstract

In this contribution the rediscovery of the lianas *Arrabidaea chica* (Bignoniaceae) and *Entada polystachya* var. *polyphylla* (Fabaceae-Mimosoideae) in Puerto Rico is reported. These species were first collected during the 1880s and subsequently considered extirpated. Their current status in Puerto Rico is discussed, and recommendations for their conservation are offered.

Introduction

During the decade of 1880, the German botanist Paul Ernst Emil Sintenis and the Puerto Rican naturalist Agustín Stahl collected several plant species and made significant contributions to the knowledge of the flora of Puerto Rico (Urban 1903–1911, Stahl 1883–1888). During their explorations throughout the island, Sintenis and Stahl collected several species new to science and new records for Puerto Rico, some of which are still known only from their collections (Acevedo-Rodríguez 2007, 2013). Examples of these are *Arrabidaea chica* (Bonpl. in Humboldt & Bonpland 1807: 107, pl. 31) Verlot (1868: 154) (Bignoniaceae) and *Entada polystachya* (Linnaeus 1753: 520) Candolle (1825: 425) var. *polyphylla* (Bentham 1840: 133) Barneby (1996: 175) [synonym: *Entadopsis polyphylla* (Benth.) Britton (in Britton & Rose 1928: 191)] (Fabaceae-Mimosoideae), both collected in 1885 and 1886. *Arrabidaea chica* was collected by both botanists in Bayamón, while *E. polystachya* var. *polyphylla* was collected in Fajardo by Sintenis and between Manatí and Vega Baja by Stahl. Until recently, the two taxa have never been recollected in Puerto Rico and were considered as extirpated (Acevedo-Rodríguez 2005). During recent botanical explorations in Puerto Rico, I have recollected both species, which are reported here.

Arrabidaea chica

Arrabidaea chica is a liana that can reach about 15 m in length with fragrant violet flowers produced in terminal panicles, and linear or narrowly-elliptical dehiscent capsules that produce many winged seeds (Acevedo-Rodríguez 2005). This species is widely distributed in the continental Neotropics and is only documented in the Antilles from St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands (Acevedo-Rodríguez 1996) and Puerto Rico (Liogier & Martorell 2000, Acevedo-Rodríguez 2005). In Puerto Rico, *A. chica* is known from three collections made by Sintenis and Stahl at unspecified localities in the municipality of Bayamón in northern Puerto Rico (Urban 1903–1911, Fig. 1). Sintenis made a single collection of a fruiting individual of *A. chica* on 20 March 1885 on a limestone hill (Sintenis 1096, BM!, G!, GH!, K!, L!, W!), while the other two specimens were collected by Stahl from forests and thickets (Stahl 79 & 541). He considered these collections a new species and described them as *Adenocalymna portoricensis* Stahl (1888: 186), which was latter placed