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A new species of *Renealmia* (Zingiberaceae) from Colombia

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Abstract

Renealmia elianae (Zingiberaceae), a new species from the Central Andes of Colombia is described and illustrated. *Renealmia elianae* is morphologically close to *R. puberula*, differing by the inflorescence position, corolla size, labellum texture, surface and color, and size of the epigynous glands.

Introduction

Renealmia Linnaeus f. (1781: 79) currently includes about 85 species of medium to large sized, rhizomatous herbs with a pantropical distribution: 23 species are native to Africa (Schumann 1904, Koechlin 1965, Dhetchuvi 1996); about 62 species are found in the Neotropics (Maas 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, Maas & Maas 1987, 1990). A phylogenetic analysis by Särkinen *et al*. (2007) suggested that *Renealmia* is monophyletic. The taxonomy of *Renealmia* is covered by regional floristic studies (Maas 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, Bolaños *et al*. 2010, Idarraga & Callejas 2011) and later additions of new species (Maas & Maas 1987, 1990, Dhetchuvi 1996). The taxonomy of neotropical species of *Renealmia* is complex and has been reviewed only once by Maas (1977), after which a number of additional species were described. During the study of the species of *Renealmia* from the western slopes of the Central Andes ("Cordillera Central") of Colombia, a specimen similar to *R. puberula* Steyermark (1964: 340) was found. However, its leaf morphology and apical inflorescence suggest a clear difference from any of the species of *Renealmia* recorded from the Cordillera Central of Colombia (Vargas 2002, Idarraga & Callejas 2011). After a study of herbarium collections, a bibliographic revision of the Neotropical species of *Renealmia* and several fieldtrips to locate natural populations, we are confidently presenting a new species.

Material and Methods

Collections from COL, CHO, FAUC, HUA, HUQ, JAUM, and MEDEL were morphologically studied and compared with floristic and taxonomical studies of the Neotropical species of *Renealmia* (Maas 1975, 1977, 1979, 1982, Maas & Maas 1987, 1990, Bolaños *et al*. 2010, Idarraga & Callejas 2011). Several fieldtrips to Circasia and Armenia (Quindío) were undertaken, where the first author sampled populations of *Renealmia*, made herbarium vouchers and fixed rhizomes, flowers and fruits in FAA (formalin : acetic acid : 70% ethyl alcohol, 1:1:18, Johansen 1940). Photographs and field observations of growing patterns, rhizomes, and the position of the inflorescence on the plants were also taken.

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