



Miconia paralimoides (Miconieae: Melastomataceae), a new species from the Cordillera Central, Dominican Republic

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Abstract

In the course of a taxonomic revision of *Miconia* sect. *Lima*, we discovered a previously undescribed species, *Miconia paralimoides*, from the Cordillera Central, Dominican Republic. This species is part of the *Miconia lima* species complex, and is most similar morphologically to *Miconia limoides*. We illustrate and provide a distribution map of the species, as well as a key to distinguish *M. paralimoides* from other members of the *Miconia lima* complex, i.e., species with very well-developed, bulla-based hairs on the adaxial leaf surface, which mostly or completely cover the areoles.

Resumen

En el proceso de una revisión taxonómica de *Miconia* sect. *Lima*, descubrimos una especie previamente no descrita, *Miconia paralimoides*, de la Cordillera Central, República Dominicana. Esta especie forma parte del complejo de especies de *M. lima*, y es más parecida morfológicamente a *M. limoides*. Ilustramos y proveemos un mapa de distribución para la especie, además de una clave para identificar *M. paralimoides* de los otros miembros del complejo de especies de *M. lima*, i.e., especies con pelos de base bulada bien desarrollados en el haz de la hoja, y casi o completamente cubriendo las aréolas.

Introduction

Tribe Miconieae (Melastomataceae) is composed of approximately 1800 species, which occur broadly throughout the Neotropics (Michelangeli et al. 2008). Generic delimitation in the tribe has long been considered to be problematic (Cogniaux 1891, Gleason 1932, Macbride 1941, Wurdack 1972; Judd 1986, 1989, Judd & Skeeve 1991) and even arbitrary (Cogniaux 1891). Recent phylogenetic analyses based on DNA sequence data have shown that most of the genera recognized within the Miconieae, including the largest genus *Miconia* Ruiz & Pavon (1794: 60) with ca. 1057 species (Goldenberg et al. 2013), are non-monophyletic (Michelangeli et al. 2004, 2008; Bécquer-Granados et al. 2008, Goldenberg et al. 2008, Martin et al. 2008, Reginato et al. 2010). Thus, the recognition of most species within Miconieae under *Miconia* s.l., which can be recognized, in part, by their berry fruit, has been proposed as a best solution to the dilemma (Ionta et al. 2012, Ionta & Judd 2012, Judd & Ionta 2013, Goldenberg et al. 2013, Majure & Judd 2013). Therefore, we describe the new species in this study under *Miconia* sect. *Lima* Majure & Judd (2013: 266).

Miconia sect. *Lima* is a clade of 17 species, including the new species described herein, distributed throughout the Greater Antilles (excluding Puerto Rico), with nine known species from Cuba, seven from Hispaniola and one from Jamaica. Species within the *Lima* clade are recognized by their striking bulla-based hairs on the adaxial leaf surface, long stemmed, clavate-dendritic hairs produced from in between bulla-based hairs on the adaxial leaf surface, sessile glandular hairs on both leaf surfaces, hypanthia, and calyx teeth, and generally acute to acuminate petal apices with slightly bulla-based hairs produced abaxially just below the