



Agave jimeno (Polycephalae group, Asparagaceae) a new species from the Totonacapan region, Veracruz, Mexico

MIGUEL CHÁZARO-BASAÑEZ¹ & JOSE ANTONIO VÁZQUEZ-GARCÍA^{2*}

¹Laboratorio de Biogeografía, Departamento de Geografía, Universidad de Guadalajara-CUCSH, Jalisco, México y Facultad de Biología, Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa, Veracruz, México

²Herbario IBUG, Instituto de Botánica, Departamento de Botánica y Zoología, Universidad de Guadalajara-CUCBA, Zapopan, Jalisco, México; E-mail jvazquez@cucba.udg.mx

* author for correspondence

Abstract

A new hydrophytic species of *Agave* from the Tlapacoyan region, Veracruz, Mexico, is described and illustrated. *Agave jimeno* belongs to the subgenus *Littaea*, and to the Polycephalae group, it differs from *A. gomezpompae* in its smaller rosettes, hanging stems, leaves and inflorescences and glaucous-green pruinose leaves. A distribution map and key to the species of the Polycephalae group is presented.

Resumen

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie hidrofítica de *Agave* de la región Tlapacoyan, Veracruz, México. *Agave jimeno* pertenece al subgénero *Littaea* y al grupo Polycephalae. La especie difiere de *A. gomezpompae* en tener rosetas más pequeñas, tallo más corto, escapo floral más corto, y hojas de color verde, glaucas, pruinosas. Se presenta un mapa de distribución y una clave para las especies del grupo Polycephalae.

Key words: *Polycephalae* group, endemic, Tlapacoyan

Introduction

The Polycephalae group (Gentry 1982) consists of seven tropical and hydrophytic species of *Agave* Linnaeus (1753: 323), all confined to the mountains of eastern Mexico and adjacent Guatemala: *A. mitis* Salm-Dyck (1859: 93), *A. chiapensis* Jacobi (1866: 213), *A. gomezpompae* Cházaro & Jimeno-Sevilla in Cházaro-Basáñez *et al.* (2010: 5), *A. pendula* Schnittspahn (1857: 7), *A. obscura* Schiede (1844: 18) [= *A. polyacantha* Haworth (1821: 35)], *A. warelliana* Baker (1877: 264) and *A. wendtii* Cházaro-Basáñez (1995: 94). These poorly studied species group are characterized by its axillary branching, dense mounds of tender rosettes, three-angled ovary, grooved tube and small teeth (Gentry 1982, Etter & Kristen, 2013). Here, we describe and illustrate *Agave jimeno*, a new species belonging to the Polycephalae group.

Description of the new species

Agave jimeno Cházaro & A. Vázquez, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1, 2 and 3)

Agave jimeno is morphologically similar to *Agave gomezpompae* in sharing a long bifurcate stem, oblanceolate flexible foliage, lateral erect inflorescence with flowers along the upper half of the shaft, polycarpic habit, and habitat at low to mid elevation tropical subperennial forest. However, it differs from the later in its shorter stems (33–35 vs. ca. 150 cm long), hanging vs creeping stems, smaller leaves (39–40 vs. 80–85 cm long), pattern of denticles (lacking in the 6 cm below the spine vs all along the leaf margin), and size of inflorescence (132–140 vs. 250–265 cm tall).