



Pourouma bergii (Urticaceae), a new species from South America

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Abstract

During the course of the taxonomic revision and molecular phylogeny of *Pourouma*, we encountered a new species from Peru and Ecuador. *P. bergii* Gaglioti & Romaniuc is here described, illustrated and its morphological similarities to *P. tomentosa* subsp. *persecta* and *P. petiolulata* are discussed. A Conservation Assessment determines *P. bergii* to be Data Deficient (DD).

Key words: *Cecropieae*, *conservation*, *Neotropical flora*, *taxonomy*

Introduction

Pourouma Aubl. (1775: 891) is a neotropical genus comprising about 40 species. The most recent reviews of the genus were undertaken by Berg *et al.* (1990, 1993, 2004) and Berg (2004). The genus is restricted to the Neotropics where it is most frequently encountered in tropical moist forest in South and Central America. It is absent from the Lesser and Greater Antilles. *Pourouma* comprises dioecious trees, often with stilt-roots, leafy twigs not fistulous, releasing a watery exudate when cut, the exudates turning black on exposure to the air, entire to palmatilobed leaves born in spirals, stipules fully encircling the stem, axillary inflorescences usually comprising a compound cyme, urceolate pistillate perianths, and fruits at maturation consisting of an achene enclosed by enlarged fleshy perianth parts with persistent stigma.

Most of the *Pourouma* species are associated with non-inundated secondary forest at elevations up to 1000 m. Some species, e.g. *Pourouma guianensis* Aubl. (1775: 892), are pioneer and commonly found in areas disturbed of the forest. Others species, e.g. *Pourouma elliptica* Standl. (1937: 181), are only found in undisturbed forest.

Peru and Ecuador represent a centre of diversity for *Pourouma* and species-richness is highest in the moist Amazonian at low elevation. The exception is *Pourouma montana* C.C. Berg (2004: 258) that is confined to an elevation of 1800 to 2100 m above sea level. Berg *et al.* (1990) and Berg (2004) recognized 17 species and five subspecies for Peru, of which *Pourouma herrerenensis* C.C. Berg (1989: 513) and *P. montana* are endemic. Berg *et al.* (1993) recognized 14 species and six subspecies from Ecuador, of which *Pourouma napoensis* C.C. Berg (1990: 59), *Pourouma floccosa* C.C. Berg (1993: 89) and *Pourouma petiolulata* C.C. Berg (1993: 100) are endemic.

Reproductive characters are fundamental to the delimitation of species within the genus, in particular the types, sizes and numbers of flower in the inflorescences; the shape, size and number of stamens of the staminate flower; size, stigma and indument of the pistillate flower; and the shape, size and indument of fruiting perianth. Nevertheless, the vegetative characters (lamina leaf, stipule, venation and indument) are important for recognizing species groups.

Material & Methods

Approximately 5,500 specimens of *Pourouma* were studied, including type materials, from AAU, B, BG, BM, BOTU, CAY, COAH, COL, CUVC, EAFM, ESA, F, GUA, HAMAB, HEPH, HRCB, HUT, IAC, IBGE, INPA, K, M, MBM, MEDEL, MIN, MIRR, MO, P, PMSP, QCA, R, RB, SP, SPF, SPSF, U, UEC, UFACPZ, UPCB, and VEN, together with voucher samples acquired from multiple field trips within Brazil, Colombia, and Peru. Scanning electron micrographs

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