



Rhynchosia sousae (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae), a new species from eastern Mexico

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Abstract

Rhynchosia sousae (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae) an endemic species from Veracruz State, in eastern Mexico, is described as new and illustrated. On account of its morphological features, it is assigned to sect. *Rhynchosia*. A table separating it from similar species: *R. amabilis* and *R. precatoria*, is presented, and its relationships and distinguishing characters are discussed.

Resumen

Rhynchosia sousae (Leguminosae, Papilionoideae) una nueva especie endémica del Estado de Veracruz, en el este de México es descrita e ilustrada. Este nuevo taxón por los caracteres morfológicos es asignado a la secc. *Rhynchosia*. Se presenta una tabla de diferenciación entre las especies afines y se discute su relación y caracteres diferenciales.

Key Words: Leguminosae, Papilionoideae, Cajaninae, *Rhynchosia*, Mexico

Introduction

The genus *Rhynchosia* Loureiro (1790: 425) is included in subtribe *Cajaninae* (Lackey 1981) and comprises more than 230 species distributed in warm temperate and tropical regions of the two hemispheres (Gear 1978, Schrire 2005), nearly 56 species being native to the Neotropics (Téllez & Sousa 2000). Fortunato (2000) placed the American species into three sections: *Rhynchosia*, *Copisma* (Meyer 1836: 132) Endlicher (1836–1840: 1300) and *Arcyphyllum* (Elliott 1818: 371–372) Torrey & Gray (1838: 284).

While preparing the treatment of *Rhynchosia* for Flora Mesoamericana as part of a new Neotropical revision, an unnamed species of *Rhynchosia* from eastern Mexico was discovered. It falls within the generic circumscription proposed by Fortunato (2000), and placed in sect. *Rhynchosia*, which is characterized by: stems twining, often flattened, fruits inflated to subinflated, constricted, seeds bicolored red and black or entirely red attached to the placenta by a funicle after dehiscence, the funicle attached at the distal end of the hilum. It is distributed in the Americas from the Greater Antilles, and Mexico to northeastern Argentina; Mexico, including the Mesoamerican region, is an important center of diversification in the American continent, with at present six of the eight reported species (Gear 1978; Fortunato 1982, 2000).

The new species is close to Mexican *R. amabilis* Gear (1978: 56) and endemic to mountains of volcanic origin in Veracruz State, in Mexico.

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