



## A striking new species of *Amaioua* (Gardenieae-Rubiaceae) from the Colombian Andes

CLAES PERSSON<sup>1,\*</sup> & ENRIQUE MÉNDEZ VARGAS<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Biology and Environmental Sciences, University of Gothenburg, P.O. Box 461, S-405 30 Göteborg, Sweden.

<sup>2</sup>Carrera 17#7a-17, Armenia, Quindío, Colombia.

\*Author for correspondence: E-mail: [claes.persson@bioenv.gu.se](mailto:claes.persson@bioenv.gu.se)

### Abstract

A new species of *Amaioua*, *A. macrosepala*, is described and illustrated. It is found at 1700–2080 m elevation in the Cordillera Central of the Colombian Andes. This new species is easily distinguished from all other species of *Amaioua* by its persistent, foliose calyx lobes.

### Resumen

Una nueva especie de *Amaioua*, *A. macrosepala*, es descrita e ilustrada. Es encontrada entre 1700–2080 m de altura en la Cordillera Central de los Andes colombianos. Esta nueva especie se distingue fácilmente de todas otras especies de *Amaioua* de su lobos calicinos foliaceos y persistentes.

**Key words:** *Alibertia* group, Gardenieae, Rubiaceae

*Amaioua* Aublet (1775: 13) is small neotropical genus of trees and treelets ranging from Mexico and Cuba to southern Brazil (state of Santa Catarina). The genus is a member of the *Alibertia* group, a group of 12 genera (Persson & Delprete, in press), all which are characterized by being dioecious and by having pollen released as monads. *Amaioua* is closely related to *Duroia* Linnaeus filius (1781: 209), with which it shares calyprate circumscissile caducous stipules. These two genera have traditionally been separated by the number of female flowers per inflorescence, viz. many in *Amaioua* vs. usually only one in *Duroia* (Schumann 1889, 1891). The fruits of *Amaioua* are usually rather small, ca. 1–2 × 1–1.5 cm, whereas in *Duroia* they are usually two to five times larger. However, small fruits can also be found in *Duroia*, e.g. *D. costaricensis* Standley (1919: 208; Burger & Taylor 1993; Persson pers. obs.), as well as several fruits per infructescence, e.g. *D. genipoides* Spruce ex K. Schumann (1889: 364; Taylor & Steyermark 2004). The generic limits between *Amaioua* and *Duroia* are thus somewhat unclear and they might be two non-monophyletic genera, a notion that is partially supported by a phylogenetic analysis of the *Alibertia* group (Persson 2000).

Nine species are currently accepted in *Amaioua* (Govaerts *et al.* 2015). The delimitations of most species are little-understood, and the genus is clearly in need of revision. In contrast, the new species described here, *Amaioua macrosepala*, is readily distinguished from all other *Amaioua* by its globose fruits with persistent leaf-like calyx lobes.

### *Amaioua macrosepala* C. H. Persson & E. Méndez *sp. nov.*, Fig. 1 A–D

Type:—COLOMBIA. Caldas: Mun. Pensilvania, vereda El Congal, microcuenca El Congal, 05°22'51.3"N, 75°07'00.1"W, 2079 m, 6–12 August 2013 (fr), E. Méndez Vargas 7015 (holotype CUV 0528521; isotype GB-0147061!).