



## A new species of *Ternstroemia* (Pentaphylacaceae) from La Amistad Binational Park and World Heritage Property, Costa Rica and Panama

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### Abstract

*Ternstroemia amistadensis* Q. Jiménez & D. Santam., a new tree species from La Amistad International Park in Costa Rica and Panama, is described and illustrated. *Ternstroemia amistadensis* is assessed as Near Threatened. It may be distinguished from other species in the genus based on its obovate, coriaceous and very shiny leaf laminae with obtuse-rounded apices and bearing many small black punctations below.

### Resumen

Se describe y se ilustra *Ternstroemia amistadensis* Q. Jiménez & D. Santam., un arbolito procedente del Parque Internacional La Amistad, Costa Rica-Panamá. La especie se distingue por sus láminas foliares obovadas, obtuso-redondeadas (a veces emarginadas) en el ápice, muy coriáceas y brillantes en el haz y con numerosos y notorios puntos negros en el envés.

**Key words:** Theaceae, Ericales, Mesoamerica, Central America, taxonomy.

### Introduction

*Ternstroemia* Mutis ex L. f. (1782: 264) is the most species-rich genus of the angiosperm family Pentaphylacaceae, comprising ca. 100 species distributed throughout tropical and subtropical America, Africa, SE and East Asia (Weitzman *et al.* 2004, Berry & Weitzman 2005, Mabberley 2008). South America, with ca 60 species, is the centre of species diversity for the genus in the Neotropics (Every 2009). Seven species are recorded from Mesoamerica (Boom 1989, Weitzman *et al.* 2004).

*Ternstroemia* can be distinguished from other Costa Rican and Panamanian Pentaphylacaceae genera by the alternate or subopposite leaves which are arranged spirally and clustered towards the branch tips, the axillary, usually solitary, perfect flowers with a campanulate corolla, many stamens (>40) and a superior ovary and the fruit irregularly dehiscent containing large seeds with a sarcotesta.

### Materials & Methods

Types and specimens at A, BM, CR, F, GH, INB, LPB, MO, MOL, NY, PMA, SCZ and USM were examined together with images from the Global Plants Initiative (GPI). All herbarium acronyms are those of Thiers (2015). Flowers were rehydrated by placing in ammonia hydroxide for one day and then in water until they were sufficiently soft and pliable to be examined under a dissecting microscope. Rehydrated material was then returned to the herbarium specimen. Material was examined under a Leica StereoZoom 5 binocular microscope at X 40.