



Columnea longipedicellata, a new species of Gesneriaceae from Colombia

MARISOL AMAYA-MÁRQUEZ^{1,3}, LAURA CLAVIJO² & OSCAR HUMBERTO MARÍN-GÓMEZ¹

¹Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Apartado 7495, Bogotá, Colombia.

²Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Alabama, Box 870345, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, U.S.A.

³E-mail: mamayam@unal.edu.co

Abstract

Columnea longipedicellata, a new species from Antioquia and Chocó Departments in Colombia (Cordillera Occidental) is described and illustrated. The new species is distinguished by the presence of elongate pedicels and leaves uniformly green abaxially.

Resumen

Se describe e ilustra *Columnea longipedicellata*, una nueva especie de los departamentos de Antioquia y Chocó en Colombia (Cordillera Occidental). Esta especie se distingue por tener pedicelos elongados y el envés de las hojas uniformemente verde.

Introduction

Columnea Linnaeus (1753: 638) is the most species rich genus of the Neotropical Gesneriaceae, with more than 205 species (Möller & Clark 2013), a number that is rapidly growing with the recent discovery of several new species (e.g., Amaya-Márquez 2010a, 2014, Amaya-Márquez & Smith 2013, Clark & Clavijo 2012, Amaya-Márquez *et al.* 2013, Smith *et al.* 2013a). Monophyly of the genus *Columnea* has been supported in several studies (e.g. Smith & Carroll 1997, Smith 2000, Zimmer *et al.* 2002, Clark *et al.* 2012, Smith *et al.* 2013b), however the subgeneric classification has been more challenging to resolve (Schulte *et al.* 2014). Nevertheless, recent phylogenetic analyses have resulted in a new subgeneric classification, and the description of a new section (Smith *et al.* 2013b, Schulte *et al.* 2014).

Colombia harbors the highest diversity of Gesneriaceae in the Neotropics with 32 genera, and approximately 400 species (Kvist *et al.* 1998). *Columnea* is the most diverse genus in Colombia (80+ species), distributed from sea level to 4000 m in elevation, with most of the species inhabiting the Andean cloud forests, particularly on the western facing slopes of the Cordillera Occidental and the Chocó biogeographical region. Rangel-Churrio & Rivera-Díaz (2004) listed *Columnea*, with 35 species, as the 13th most diverse genus in the Chocó biogeographical region, and in the past few years this number has increased with descriptions of several new species (e.g. Amaya-Márquez *et al.* 2004, Amaya-Márquez 2010b, Amaya-Márquez & Smith 2012, Amaya-Márquez & Marín-Gómez 2012, Smith *et al.* 2013a). In this paper, we describe a new species of *Columnea* from the western slopes of the Cordillera Occidental, and discuss morphological similarities with its congeners and its position within the genus.

Taxonomy

Columnea longipedicellata M.Amaya, Clavijo & O.H.Marín, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1 & 2)

Columnea longipedicellata differs from *C. segregata* by having longer (15–19+ cm) pedicels and leaves homogenously green on the abaxial side.