



Two new species of *Anthurium* section *Xialophyllum* (Araceae) from Panama

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Abstract

Two new species of *Anthurium* section *Xialophyllum* from Panama are described here. Both species have close affinities with *Anthurium microspadix*, *A. davidsoniae* and *A. myosuroides*. *Anthurium monteazulense* sp. nov., known only from Chiriqui Province, is characterized by its epiphytic habit, internodes somewhat longer than broad, loosely intact cataphylls, leaf blades subcordate, bullate, ovate with two pairs of basal veins and short-stipitate green to greenish yellow cylindroid spadix. The other species, *Anthurium batistae* sp. nov., known only from Veraguas Province, is characterized by its terrestrial habit, elongate internodes, deciduous cataphylls, leaf blades rounded at base, ovate with one pair of basal veins and prominently stipitate purplish red cylindroid spadix.

Key words: Taxonomy, Veraguas, Chiriqui, Flora of Panama

Introduction

Anthurium Schott (1829: 828) is a monophyletic and Neotropical genus, present from Mexico to Argentina (Croat 1986, Carlsen & Croat 2013) and represented by 905 species in the Neotropics (Boyce & Croat 2014), although Panama represents the biggest area of diversity in Central America for this genus (Croat 1986). In the Revision of *Anthurium* for Panama (Croat 1986), 148 species are recognized, later Correa *et al.* (2004) lists 152, but now there are more than 200 species, where many of these species are as yet unpublished.

The section *Xialophyllum* Schott (1860: 440) is principally characterized by stems erect or scandent with long internodes and blades typically longer than broad and rarely conspicuously lobed at the base. In the Revision of *Anthurium* for Panama (Croat 1986), 14 species are recognized in *Xialophyllum* section, but now there are ca. 17 species and ca. 112 currently classified species distributed in the Neotropics. Many of these remain unpublished and there are even more undescribed species anticipated.

Croat & Sheffer (1983) mention that *Xialophyllum* section seems certain to be an unnatural one with at least two different types of plants involved: the *Anthurium microspadix* Schott (1858: 180) group and the *Anthurium caucanum* Engler (1885: 274) group. The *Anthurium microspadix* group has thin, veiny, usually matte often somewhat bullate blades and commonly has greenish inflorescences and the *A. caucanum* group have more coriaceous, usually semiglossy to glossy blades which are smooth or at least not markedly veiny or bullate (Croat & Sheffer 1983, Croat 1986). A recent phylogenetic study of Carlsen & Croat (2013) placed *Anthurium microspadix* and *A. mindense* Sodiro (1902: 470) of section *Xialophyllum* in a well supported clade with other species of section *Polyneurium* Engler (1898: 384), but more studies supported by expanded sampling to confirm the monophyly of Section *Xialophyllum* are required.

Materials and methods

This study is based on the investigations of herbarium collections of *Anthurium* housed at MO, PMA, SCZ, and UCH. The descriptions are based on fertile material, and the descriptive terminology is according to Croat & Bunting (1979).