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A new species of *Amyris* (Rutaceae) from southern Ecuador

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Abstract

A new species, *Amyris karlitae*, from southern Ecuador is described, illustrated and contrasted with closely related species. It is characterized by the following combination of characters: glabrous unifoliolate leaves with lamina elliptic, ovate-lanceolate or oblong-elliptic, 6–11 cm long, 4–6 cm wide, with apex acuminate or emarginate; secondary veins in 10–13 pairs, more or less convergent, inconspicuous, branched towards the margin; stamens 8, 4 short alternating with 4 longer. The new species grows in the semi-deciduous forests of southern Ecuador, between 1400 and 1700 m.

Key words: aromatic, unifoliolate, emarginated, semi-deciduous forests

Introduction

The genus *Amyris* Browne (1756: 208) includes between 40–58 species (Gereau 1991, Pennington *et al.* 2004, The Plant List 2014). Approximately half of the species have unifoliolate leaves and most of them grow in Central America and Mexico (Gereau 1991). Since 1991, four unifoliolate species have been described from Ecuador and Peru; additionally, two species of these countries are known to have imparipinnate leaves. All these species are distinguished, mostly by the shape and venation of their leaves.

During an expedition to the seasonal rainforests of the province of Loja in southern Ecuador, distinctive material that did not match any previously known species in *Amyris* was collected. For confirmation of this new entity, type images for all species available in the database of Global Plant Initiative (http://plants.jstor.org/) herbarium specimens at Ecuador's National Herbarium (QCNE), and the relevant literature were consulted. The collections did not match any currently described species and therefore a new species is herein proposed.

Amyris karlitae W.Palacios, *sp. nov.*

Diagnosis:—*Amyris karlitae* is distinct from other species of the genus by a combination of characters: unifoliolate leaves, 6–11 × 4–6 cm, pinnate venation, and emarginate or acuminate apex and stamens 8(or 10), alternating short and long. (Figure 1)

Type:—ECUADOR. Loja: Cantón Macará, Sabiango, Achima-Cerro Jatumpamba, sitio El Fondo, aprox. 1700 m, agosto 2010 *W. Palacios 17324* (holotype QCNE!, isotype to be distributed to QCA, MO, AAU, NY).

Tree to 18 m tall; dbh to 50 cm. Inner bark creamy-yellow and very aromatic. Terminal twigs clustered, cylindrical, browns. Leaves unifoliolate, alternate, spiral, 6–11 × 4–6 cm, elliptic, ovate-lanceolate or oblong-elliptic, glabrous, shiny above; apex acuminate or emarginate and in this case slightly recurved; base obtuse; secondary veins 10–13 pairs, more or less convergent, inconspicuous, forked towards the margin; intersecondary and secondary nerves very similar; tertiary nerves inconspicuous; margin entire; glandular dots translucent on leaves; petioles 1–3(–4) cm long, up to half as long as the lamina, thickened and curved at the apex. Inflorescence an axillary or terminal panicle, up to 8 cm long, with lateral branches up to 2.5 cm long; bracteoles ovate, 0.7–1 mm long. Flowers hermaphrodite, gland-dotted; calyx patelliform, 4-lobed, approx. 1 mm long, lobes broadly ovate, shortly fused at the base; petals 4, free, elliptic or oblong-elliptic, 2–2.5 mm long, white; stamens 8(or 10), alternating short and long; disc glandular, orange, prominent between the stamens and pistil; pedicels 1.5–3 mm long, articulate at base.

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