



## *Drymonia betancurii* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from northwestern Colombia

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### Abstract

A new species of Gesneriaceae from the Pacific slopes of the Colombian Andes is described and illustrated. The new species, *Drymonia betancurii*, is differentiated from other congeners by the following combination of characters: upper leaf surface with papillose-hispid trichomes, dark green and often covered with white spots; lower surface pitted; and corolla lobes orange-red with white to yellow margins.

### Resumen

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie de Gesneriaceae de la vertiente pacífica de los Andes Colombianos. La nueva especie, *Drymonia betancurii*, se diferencia de las otras especies del género por la siguiente combinación de caracteres: haz con indumento papiloso-hispido, verde oscuro y usualmente con manchas blancas; envés con pequeñas depresiones; y lóbulos de la corola anaranjado-rojo con margen blanca a amarilla.

### Introduction

The flowering plant family Gesneriaceae Richad & Jussieu in Candolle (1816: 182) is represented in the Neotropics by more than 1200 species (Weber *et al.* 2013). The highest diversity is found in Colombia with 32 genera and over 400 species (Kvist *et al.* 1998), followed by Ecuador with 29 genera and 240 species (Skog & Kvist 1997), and Brazil with 28 genera and 207 species (Forzza *et al.* 2010). The third largest genus in the Neotropics is *Drymonia* Martius (1829: 57) with 75+ species (Möller & Clark 2013) where most of them are in northwestern South America, particularly along the Pacific slopes of the Andes in Colombia and Ecuador (Clark *et al.* 2006, Clavijo & Clark 2009). In Colombia the genus is distributed from sea level to 3000 m, and the highest species richness is in the Tropical rain forest (bp-T) and the Premontane Rain forests (bp-PM) (Holdridge 1978) at low to mid-elevations (0–1400 m).

*Drymonia* is one of the most morphologically diverse genera among the members of the neotropical Gesneriaceae (Clark *et al.* 2012; Clark *et al.* 2015), displaying a wide range of habits, such as herbs, subshrubs, shrubs, and lianas that can be terrestrial, hemiepiphytic, or epiphytic (facultative or obligate). Corolla shapes can be campanulate, funnellform, tubular, laterally compressed, urceolate, or hypocyrtoid (with a ventral pouch). Fruit types range from fleshy bivalved capsules to indehiscent berries. The most distinctive characteristic of *Drymonia* is the presence of basal poricidal anther dehiscence (Fig. 2G), which is lost in several lineages within the genus (Clark *et al.* 2006; Clark *et al.* 2015). Recent transfers from *Nautilocalyx* Linden *ex* Hanstein (1854: 207) (Clark *et al.* 2011) and *Alloplectus* Martius (1829: 55) (Clark 2005) have been supported by molecular sequence data that strongly support a monophyletic *Drymonia* represented by highly divergent morphologies in the above mentioned vegetative and reproductive characters.

High humidity, and a heterogeneous landscape associated with the Andean orogeny have promoted the diversification of several plant lineages on the Pacific slopes of the Andes (Gentry 1989), which are considered among the most biologically diverse regions on the planet with numerous endemic taxa (Gentry 1982, 1989, Mittermeier *et al.* 2004). Recent expeditions to poorly explored areas on the Pacific slopes of the Andes have resulted in the discovery and description of several new species of Gesneriaceae (*e.g.*, Amaya-Márquez 2010, Amaya-Márquez & Marín-Gómez 2012, Amaya-Márquez & Smith 2012, Smith *et al.* 2013), including three new species of *Drymonia* (Clavijo & Clark 2010, 2012, 2014). In this paper we describe a new species from the Pacific slopes of the Colombian Andes and discuss its morphological similarities with other congeners.