



A new species of *Anthurium* (Araceae) from Ecuador

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Abstract

Anthurium sect. *Belolonchium* (Araceae) is defined and characterized. One new species of sect. *Belolonchium*, namely *A. yanacochense* Croat, C.Ulloa & E.Freire from Pichincha province, Ecuador, is described as new and compared with related species.

Resumen

Se define y caracteriza *Anthurium* sect. *Belolonchium* (Araceae). Se describe como una especie nueva de la sect. *Belolonchium*, *A. yanacochense* Croat, C.Ulloa & E.Freire de la provincia de Pichincha, Ecuador, y se compara con especies afines.

Keywords: *Anthurium*, endemism, Section *Belolonchium*, Araceae, Ecuador

Introduction

The genus *Anthurium* Schott (1829: 828) is represented in Ecuador by some 291 species (WCSP 2015) of which more than half are endemic to the country (Croat 1999, Croat *et al.* 2011). *Anthurium* sect. *Belolonchium* (Schott) Engler (1879: 151) is one of about 20 to 25 natural groups which are recognized at the sectional level (Croat & Sheffer 1983, Carlsen & Croat 2013). Up till now the section contains 276 species but a conservative estimate of the total number of species left undescribed will elevate the total number of species in this section to at least 315 (Croat & Grib unpublished data). *Anthurium* sect. *Belolonchium* is characterized by having short thick internodes, densely persistent red-brown cataphyll fibers, the frequent presence of ribbed or acutely low-winged petioles, moderately coriaceous red-brown-drying blades which are frequently concave along the anterior lobe, major veins often low-ridged-winged as well as by a frequently hooding moderately coriaceous spathe and frequently subpendent spadices.

Collections made by Carmen Ulloa and her colleagues in the Yanacocha Reserve on the back of Volcán Pichincha revealed to be a undescribed species in sect. *Belolonchium*, a section characterized by typically growing at high elevations, usually in cloud forest areas, and is herein described and illustrated. Acronyms of the herbaria follow Thiers (2015).

Taxonomic treatment

Anthurium yanacochense Croat, C.Ulloa & E.Freire, *sp. nov.* (Figs. 1–4)

The species is characterized by its epiphytic habit, short internodes, reddish brown persistent cataphyll fibers, subterete unribbed sulcate