



## *Pitcairnia queroana* (Pitcairnioideae, Bromeliaceae), a striking new species from Chiapas state, Mexico

ADOLFO ESPEJO-SERNA & ANA ROSA LÓPEZ-FERRARI

Departamento de Biología, División de Ciencias Biológicas y de la Salud, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Unidad Iztapalapa. Apartado Postal 55-535, 09340, México, D. F. email: aes@xanum.uam.mx

### Abstract

*Pitcairnia queroana*, known only from the state of Chiapas, Mexico, is here described and illustrated. The new taxon superficially resembles *P. sulphurea* but differs from it by the presence of long petioles, longer inflorescence with more than 60 flowers, purple calyx, and the conspicuous and dense white-lanate-tomentose indument that covers all the inflorescence. An identification key for the taxa of the genus present in this state is also included.

**Key words:** Chiapas, IUCN Red List, El Triunfo Reserve, *Pitcairnia* subgenus *Pitcairnia*

### Resumen

Se describe e ilustra *Pitcairnia queroana*, conocida únicamente del estado de Chiapas, México. El nuevo taxón presenta semejanzas con *P. sulphurea*, pero difiere de la misma por sus largos pecíolos, sus inflorescencias más largas, con más de 60 flores, su cáliz púrpura y el indumento conspicuo y densamente blanco-lanado-tomentoso que cubre toda la inflorescencia. Se incluye también una clave para la identificación de las especies del género presentes en Chiapas.

**Palabras clave:** Chiapas, Lista Roja IUCN, *Pitcairnia* subgenus *Pitcairnia*, reserva El Triunfo

### Introduction

In 2004, during a working stay in the herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO), we had the opportunity to review material from one species of *Pitcairnia* L'Héritier (1789–1790: 5, t. 11), which we could not identify and tentatively had determined as *P. cf. breedlovei* Smith (1966: 455). Recently, when we have been identifying specimens of the family Bromeliaceae collected in Chiapas by the staff of the herbarium Eizi Matuda (HEM), of the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas, we have found additional material of this species. After a detailed examination of the specimens, we have not been able to assign it to any of the previously described species of the genus, so we propose it here as new to science.

*Pitcairnia* with ca. 342 spp. (Luther, 2012) is the second most important genus in Bromeliaceae and is mainly distributed in South America but has an important center of diversification in Mexico. The only species of the family that grows out of America, *P. feliciana* (Chevalier, 1937: 503) Harms & Mildbraed (1938: 118), belongs to this genus. Of the 19 genera of Bromeliaceae present in Mexico (Espejo-Serna *et al.* 2004, Espejo Serna, 2012), *Pitcairnia* occupies the third place in number of taxa, with 46 species (Espejo Serna, 2012). In addition, the genus is notable for the number of endemic taxa present in the country, which reaches 39 species (84.78 %). For the state of Chiapas we had so far reported 15 species (Espejo-Serna *et al.*, 2004) and with this new finding that number increased to 16. Of these, *P. breedlovei*, *P. matudae* Smith (1962: 220), *P. mirandae* Uteley & Burt-Uteley (1998: 304), *P. ocotensis* Beutelspacher & López Velázquez (2008: 30), *P. secundiflora* Smith (1936: 7) and *P. queroana* restrict its distribution to Chiapas (Espejo Serna, 2012). We include an identification key for the taxa of the genus present in this state.