



A new species of *Sicydium* (Cucurbitaceae) from Argentina

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Abstract

We describe a new species of *Sicydium* endemic to Argentina. Relationships and differences with morphologically and geographically closest species are discussed, including a key for material with staminate flowers to all species of *Sicydium*, and an illustration of the new species.

Introduction

Sicydium Schlechtendal (1832: 388) is a Neotropical genus of Cucurbitaceae with about seven species of tendrilous, usually dioecious, climbers (Lira 2004, Schaefer & Renner 2011b, and literature therein). Mexican (and Central American) species of *Sicydium* were reviewed by Lira (1995, 2004), and South American species were treated by Cogniaux (1916) and Jeffrey & Trujillo (1992). Within tribe Triceratiae A. Richard (1845: 298), *Sicydium* is phylogenetically and morphologically close to *Pteropepon* (Cogniaux in Martius 1878: 112) Cogniaux in Engler (1916: 260), a South American genus with five species restricted to Peru, Argentina, and Brazil (Schaefer & Renner 2011a, b). Both genera share the same basic structure of staminate flowers, staminate inflorescences, and uniseminate ovaries, but differ mainly by the fruit type, seed compression, ovary shape, and pubescence on leaves and stems. During the revision of the Cucurbitaceae collections housed at CTES, we found a voucher assignable to *Sicydium*, as a new species and the first record of that genus for Argentina.

Taxonomy

Sicydium nereoi Pozner *sp. nov.* (Fig. 1)

Type:—ARGENTINA. Prov. Corrientes: Dpto. Esquina, Islas frente a Esquina, 30 November 1974, A. Krapovickas, C.L. Cristóbal, J. Irigoyen & A. Schinini 26905 (holotype CTES!).

Tendrilous, villose-glandulose, declinuous climber. Stems 5-sulcate, densely villose-glandulose. Glandulose trichomes simple, uniseriate, patent, variable in length up to 0.8 mm long, mixed with simple, less frequent, eglandulose trichomes 1.5–2 mm long, more abundant and dense at the nodes. Leaves entire, simple, cordate, up to 4 cm wide × 6 cm long, 7–9-pedately nerved, apex acute-acuminate, margin entire, adaxial surface densely villose, most trichomes simple, eglandulose, abaxial surface villose-glandulose, with simple glandulose and eglandulose trichomes mixed as on the stem, particularly denser on the nerves. Petioles 7–8 mm, densely villose-glandulose. Tendrils distally bifid, coiling below and above the branching point, villose-glandulose at base, becoming almost glabrous towards the distal end. Staminate flowers in axillar, bracteate thyrses up to 7–9 cm long, lower bracts ovate, acute, becoming narrower up to linear towards the distal cymes, bracts and rachis villose-glandulose as the stem but with shorter trichomes, floral pedicels glabrous, ebracteolate, articulate at their very base. Staminate flowers minute, hypanthium saucer-shaped, sepals 5, triangular to long triangular, ca. 0.2 mm wide × 0.8 mm long, margin entire, with some trichomes on the abaxial side, petals 5, triangular to long triangular-acuminate, 0.4–0.5 mm wide × 1–1.8 mm long, with some trichomes on both sides, and along the margin in a ciliated arrangement, inner side of the hypanthium densely covered by

5. Stems puberulent to noticeable pubescent, leaves puberulent and rough-scabrose on the adaxial side, and smooth pubescent to tomentose on the abaxial side, indumenta made of glandulose and eglandulose trichomes, usually dark brown, reddish or sometimes greenish when dry.....*Sicydium tuerckheimii* Donnell Smith (1911: 49)
6. Pedicels articulated at the base (no pedicel remains on the cyme peduncle after flower senescence), pedicels glabrous. Filaments as long or twice the length of the anther, connective usually widened or divaricate*Sicydium nereoi*
6. Pedicels articulated at some point on the lower, proximal half (part of the pedicels remain on the cyme peduncle after flower senescence), pedicels puberulent-glandulose, connective narrow or very much reduced.....*Sicydium tamnifolium*

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