Three new species of *Euphorbia* subg. *Chamaesyce* (Euphorbiaceae) from Bolivia

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Abstract

Three new Bolivian species of *Euphorbia* subg. *Chamaesyce* are described and illustrated. *Euphorbia beckii* is known from the Área Natural de Manejo Integrado de Apolobamba, province of Bautista Saavedra, department of La Paz; it belongs to sect. *Alectoroctonum* and is compared with *E. viridis*. *Euphorbia fuentesii* is known from the Kaa-Iya del Gran Chaco National Park, Cordillera province, department of Santa Cruz. It forms part of sect. *Anisophyllum*, and is most similar to *E. catamarcensis*. *Euphorbia riinae* is known from the Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado, in the province of Velasco, department of Santa Cruz. It is a member of sect. *Crossadenia* subsect. *Ephedropeplus* and is closely related to the Brazilian *Euphorbia gymnoclada*.

Resumen


Introduction

With more than 2000 species, *Euphorbia* Linnaeus (1753: 450) is the second most speciose genus of flowering plants. It has a nearly worldwide distribution (Berry & Riina 2007), and major centers of diversity include Mexico (256 spp., Steinmann 2002), tropical east Africa (210 spp., Carter 1988), southern Africa (175 spp., Bruyns 2012), and Madagascar (170 spp., Aubriot et al. 2013). The continent of South America possesses considerable diversity, but with approximately 220 species, its richness in relation to size is only moderate. Although the South American species lack a recent, comprehensive treatment, there are number of checklists and a few detailed floristic treatments. From these, a panorama of the diversity of *Euphorbia* throughout the continent can be inferred, with the greatest number of native species occurring in Brazil (61 spp., Steinmann 2010), followed by Argentina (44 spp., Subilis 1997, Berry et al. 2010), Ecuador (38 spp., Webster 1999, Cabrera-Cisneros & Prina 2013), Peru (33 spp., Brako 1993), Colombia (30 spp., Murillo-A. 2004), Venezuela (29 spp., Berry et al. 2008), Uruguay (20 spp., Berry et al. 2010), and Paraguay (19 spp., Berry et al. 2010).

The *Euphorbia* diversity in Bolivia is comparable to that of other South American countries, and Berry *et al.* (in prep.) report 41 native species. During the course of revisionary studies on South American *Euphorbia*, in conjunction with the *Euphorbia* Planetary Biodiversity Inventory Project, specimens of three additional Bolivian species were encountered in the herbaria of the Missouri Botanical Garden (MO), New York.