



## ***Paronychia ubinensis* (Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae) a new species from Moquegua, South Peru**

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### **Abstract**

As part of the botanical and phytosociological characterisation of the Moqueguan flora, several Caryophyllaceae were studied. A specimen that was collected from the Ubinas district is named *Paronychia ubinensis* (Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae) and described as a new species. This species is compared with its closest relatives *P. andina*, *P. mandoniana*, *P. muschleri*, *P. peruviana* and *P. weberbaueri* from Southern Peru.

**Key words:** *Paronychia ubinensis*, Caryophyllaceae, Paronychioideae, new species, Southern Peru

### **Introduction**

*Paronychia* Miller (Bittrich 1993) consists of approximately 110 species worldwide (Chaudhri 1968, Kool 2012), 11 species and 7 subspecies are recorded from Peru (Macbride 1937; Brako & Zarucchi 1993). During a study on the flora and vegetation of the Andean region of the department of Moquegua in southern Peru, more than 1000 botanical specimens were collected. While identifying these collections several novelties were discovered (Al-Shehbaz & Montesinos 2009, Montesinos 2012). One such species new to science is described here and named *Paronychia ubinensis*. This species is similar to *Paronychia andina* A.Gray, *P. mandoniana* Rohrb., *P. muschlerii* Chaudhri, *P. peruviana* Chaudhri and *P. weberbaueri* Chaudhri in habit and lifeform characters, but differs in leaf and flower morphology. In *P. ubinensis* the leaves are much shorter, the ciliate hairs on the leaf lamina and margins are absent, the ovary is shorter and the stigma is reduced to <0.1 mm in length.

***Paronychia ubinensis* Montesinos, spec. nov.**

TYPE:—PERU. Moquegua Department: General Sánchez Cerro Province, Ubinas District: Punku near Tassa locality, 16°10'30" S, 70°42'21" W. 4030 m, 6 April 2012, *Montesinos 3698* (holotype WAG!, isotype USM).

Additional specimens examined: PERU, Moquegua Department, General Sánchez Cerro Province, Ubinas District: Roadside, Querala-Patune, 4340 m, 1 June 2011, *Montesinos 3164* (USM). PERU, Moquegua Department, General Sánchez Cerro Province, Yunga District: Sura slopes, 4500 m, 28 March 2013, *Montesinos 4049* (USM, CUZ, HSP). *Herba perennis*, 2–4 cm longa, folia relinquunt subterminale glomerulus; bractae oblongae ovatis; petalis obscure viridis colorem.

Perennial herb with stem woody and branched at the base, decumbent, caespitose, densely congested and imbricate, forming pulvinate tufts, 2–4 cm long, with internodes <0.5 mm long. Leaves disposed in subterminal glomerules. Leaves brown red to lilac red, stiff, linear to narrowly elliptic, 1.8–2.4 mm x 0.6–0.9 mm, apex acute, with translucent, 0.1–0.2 mm stout mucro (brown at the base) with few minute bristle hairs at the tip; margin glabrous and slightly folded, the base of the leaves deep red or pale purple, always darker than the lamina; stipules oblong-lanceolate, 1.8–2.2 mm x 0.6–1.0 mm, mostly equalling the leaves, tip aristate to