



A new species of *Miconia* (Melastomataceae: Miconieae) from the eastern slope of the Peruvian Andes

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Abstract

Miconia glandulipetala is described as a new species from the eastern slope of the central Peruvian Andes. This new species is recognized as a member of the “*Leandra* + *Ossaea* (scorpioid)” clade based on its secund flowers and ovoid seeds with testa cells in an aligned pattern and par-convex periclinal walls. The taxon is easily recognized by the presence of 4-merous flowers, 4-locular ovaries, and a subapical glandular hair formed on the margin of each petal.

Resumen

Se describe a *Miconia glandulipetala* como una especie nueva proveniente del área central de los Andes peruanos. El taxón nuevo se identifica como un miembro del clado “*Leandra* + *Ossaea* (escorpioide)” debido a la presencia de flores secundas y semillas ovoides con células dispuestas en un patrón alineado y con paredes anticlinales par-convexas. La especie se reconoce fácilmente por tener flores tetrámetras, ovarios tetraloculares y un pelo glandular subapical formado en el margen de cada pétalo.

Study of herbarium specimens for the Miconieae Planetary Biodiversity Inventory project allowed us to detect an undescribed species from Peru that is a member of the tribe Miconieae. The species, which is known from only one collection, can be placed in *Ossaea* Candolle sect. *Diclemia* (Naudin) Cogniaux (1891: 1062) because of its lateral inflorescences, secund 4-merous flowers with acute petals, and 4-locular ovaries. Molecular analyses have shown that the genera of Miconieae, including *Ossaea* Candolle (1828: 168), are not monophyletic (Goldenberg et al. 2008). One possible solution to this problem includes the recircumscription of *Miconia* Ruiz & Pavón (1794: 60) to incorporate the total range of morphological variation found within the tribe (Ionta et al. 2012). This approach will require the creation of numerous new names and transfers to the genus *Miconia*, which will add to the already complicated taxonomic history of the genus (see Goldenberg et al. 2013 for an account of *Miconia* names). However, Ionta et al. (2012) argue that this may be the best solution to avoid non-monophyly within Miconieae because it would include a clade within the tribe that is diagnosed by the synapomorphy of berry fruits. Because of the large number of accepted *Miconia* names (more than half of the species of the Miconieae), an expanded circumscription under *Miconia* would create less nomenclatural instability than transferring the remaining species names to *Maieta* Aublet (1775: 443) or *Tococa* Aublet (1775: 437), names that have priority under the current code of botanical nomenclature (McNeill et al. 2012). Additionally, *Miconia* is already a conserved name against *Tamonea* Aublet (1775: 411), *Leonicenia* Scopoli (1777: 212), *Lieutatia* Buchoz (1779: 10), and *Zulatia* Necker (1790: 117) (Farr et al. 1979, Goldenberg et al. 2013). An alternative scenario would necessitate the disintegration of large genera into smaller ones, but this approach would likely create dozens of morphologically ill-defined monophyletic genera (Michelangeli et al. unpublished data). Here we opted for describing the new species under *Miconia*, following the expanded *Miconia* approach adopted in the recent literature (e.g., Ionta et al. 2012, Judd & Majure 2013, Majure & Judd 2013, Michelangeli & Meier 2013; but see Goldenberg & Reginato 2013, Reginato & Goldenberg 2013).

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