



Ficus tubulosa (Moraceae), a new Amazonian species and the re-establishment of *Ficus trachelosyce*

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Abstract

In this paper a new species of *Ficus* sect. *Americana* is described and illustrated as *Ficus tubulosa*. It is characterized mainly by the tubular shape of the ostiole, and shows morphological similarities with *F. pertusa* and *F. trachelosyce*, the latter previously treated as a synonym of *F. pertusa* is re-established as a valid species in this paper.

Resumo

No presente artigo uma nova espécie de *Ficus* seção *Americana* é descrita e ilustrada como *Ficus tubulosa*. É caracterizada, principalmente, pelo formato tubular do ostíolo, e apresenta similaridade morfológica com *F. pertusa* e *F. trachelosyce*, esta última anteriormente tratada como sinônimo de *F. pertusa* é reestabelecida como espécie válida neste artigo.

Key words: Amazonian forest, *Americana*, *Ficus pertusa* complex, Neotropical flora

Introduction

Ficus is the largest genus in Moraceae, with approximately 800 species and tropical to subtropical distribution, rarely in temperate regions (Pelissari & Romaniuc Neto 2013). It is characterized mainly by its arboreal to hemi-epiphytic habit, milky latex in all parts of the plant, terminal stipules well-developed, leaves with a glandular spot at the base of midrib and inflorescence (syconium) which contains minute staminate and pistillate flowers, of which the anthers and stigmas are not exposed during flowering.

The first organization of the group was proposed by Gasparrini (1844) and Miquel (1847), but it was Corner (1960) who organized the basis of current classification. Nowadays the genus is organized in six subgenera, based on morphological and molecular data (Berg 2003, Rönsted 2008). Subgenus *Urostigma* is the largest one, with approximately 280 species worldwide, most of them with hemi-epiphytic habit. Furthermore it presents syconia in pairs and male flowers with one stamen. It is subdivided in four sections: *Galoglychia*, *Malvanthera*, *Urostigma* e *Americana*, the last one occurring exclusively in neotropics, with approximately 120 species (Berg & Villavicencio 2004). The monophyly of the section *Americana* is strongly supported by recent phylogenetics analyzes (Rönsted *et al.* 2005, 2007, 2008) showing, as closest clade section *Galoglychia*, restrict to African continent. The first subdivision of section *Americana* in complexes was proposed by Berg & Simonis (1981) who recognized five complexes (*F. americana*, *F. citrifolia*, *F. obtusifolia*, *F. pertusa* and *F. trigonata*) in the revision made to the species from Venezuela. Three years later, during a revision to the species from Amazonia and Guianas, Berg *et al.* (1984) supported the groups previously described. Berg (1989, 2007) reorganized the species from section *Americana* in five complexes, a little different from previous revisions, including the species from *F. obtusifolia* complex into *F. trigonata* complex and creating *F. aurea* complex.

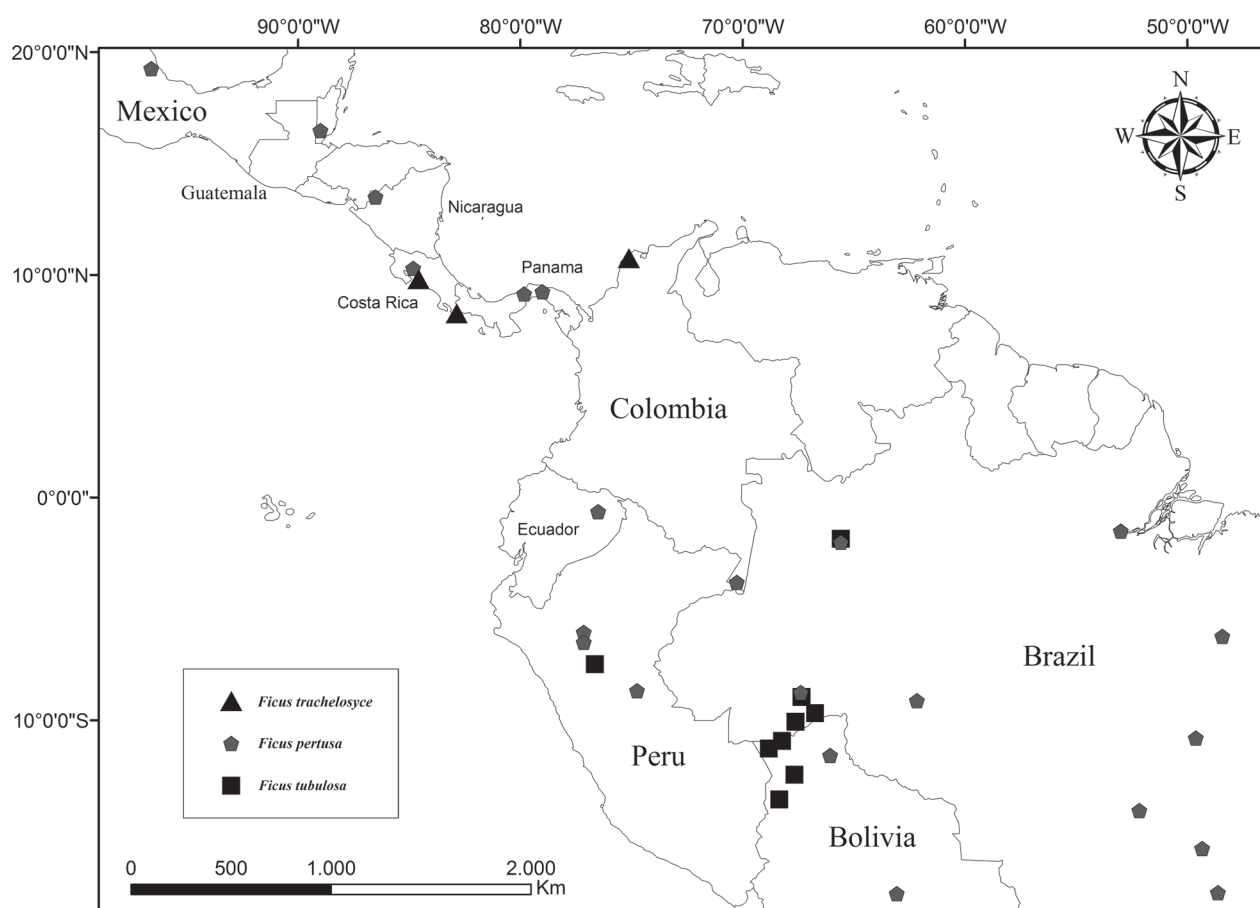


FIGURE 3. Specimen locality dot map of Central America and northeast of South America showing distribution of *Ficus pertusa*, *F. trachelosyce* and *F. tubulosa* (based on herbarium material).

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