

A new species of *Erythroxylum* (Erythroxylaceae) from Colombia and emendation of *Erythroxylum plowmanianum*

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Abstract

The description of *Erythroxylum plowmanianum* is emended, and the new species *Erythroxylum cogolloi* is described. Both species are endemics to the sub-montane forest of Colombia's Middle Magdalena River Basin. Diagnostic characters are discussed, notes on distribution and illustration are provided for each species.

Resumen

Se enmienda la descripción de *Erythroxylum plowmanianum* y se describe la nueva especie *Erythroxylum cogolloi*. Ambas especies son endémicas de los bosques sub-montanos de la cuenca media del río Magdalena. Para cada especie se discuten sus caracteres diagnósticos, y se incluyen ilustraciones y notas sobre su distribución.

Introduction

Erythroxylum P.Browne (1756: 278) comprises around 240 species, nearly 187 of which are native to the Neotropics (Plowman & Hensold 2004). The species of the genus grow in a broad spectrum of habitats, such as perhumid regions of the Choco and the xerophytic area in north-west of Peru. In Colombia there has been recorded 40 species, seven endemic and five of these narrow endemics to the interandean valleys (Jara, unpublished data).

In revising *Erythroxylum* in Colombia, a new species was discovered among the specimens originally included in the description of *Erythroxylum plowmanianum* Cogollo & Pipoly (1993: 126). Here, I describe this new species based on specimens mistakenly included in the protologue of *E. plowmanianum* as well as some recent collections. The description of *E. plowmanianum* is emended to reflect these changes.

Taxonomic Treatment

Erythroxylum cogolloi Jara sp. nov. (Fig. 1).

Similar to *Erythroxylum acuminatum* Ruiz & Pavón (1957: 136) but differing in shorter petioles, (1.5–3.5 mm vs. 6–9.3 mm in *E. acuminatum*), and secondary veins not impressed adaxially (vs. impressed in *E. acuminatum*).

Type:—COLOMBIA. Antioquia: Municipio San Luis, Cañón del Río Claro, sector nor-occidental, margen derecha, sector sur, 6°2'0"N–74°55'0"W, 03 December 1983, A. Cogollo 1036 (holotype, COL!; isotypes, JAUM!, MO!).

Small tree or shrub to 6 m tall. Branchlets erect-patents, brown to dun, longitudinally striate at apex; lenticels few. Cataphylls persistent, similar to stipules, 1.2–3.8 mm long, 0–6 at the internodes. Stipules persistent, triangular to

size and form, and their persistent stipules are nearly 2 mm long. Additionally, both species occur sympatrically and likely share the same micro-habitat. However, they have morphological differences that were missed in the description of *E. plowmanianum*. Clearly, these two species are differentiated based on presence versus absence of striated stipules. Stipules in *Erythroxylum plowmanianum* lack striations, whereas the new species, *E. cogolloi*, has striations. Presence of striated stipules is a stable character used by Schulz (1907) as one of the most important characters to separate sections in *Erythroxylum*. Other characters that differentiate these two species are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Morphological comparison between *Erythroxylum plowmanianum* and *E. cogolloi*

Characters	<i>E. plowmanianum</i>	<i>E. cogolloi</i>
Stipule length (mm)	0.7–1.4	1.7–3.1
Pedicel length (mm)	1.2–3.5	3.4–4.3
Pale apicule at apex of calyx lobes	present	absent
Staminal cup Vs. calyx	longer	shorter

Additional specimens examined:—COLOMBIA. Antioquia: Municipio San Luis, ecological park Cañón del Río Claro, northern sector, left side, 350–450 m, 25 October 1983, A. Cogollo, A. 814 (COL, MO); Municipio San Luis, Cañón del Río Claro, north-west sector, left side, 5° 53' N, 74° 37', 375–600 m, 9 March 1984, A. Cogollo 1442 (COL); *Ibidem*. 2 September 1984, A. Cogollo 1470 (MO).

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