

## A New Species of *Aptandra* (Olacaceae) from Amazonian Peru

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**ABSTRACT.** A new species of Olacaceae from Amazonian Peru is described as *Aptandra caudata*.

***Aptandra caudata*** A. Gentry & Ortiz, sp. nov.

TYPE: Peru. Loreto: Provincia Maynas, Quebrada Sucusari, N bank of Río Napo below Mazán, mature upland forest on lateritic soil, elev. 130 m, 3°15'S, 72°55'W, 7 July 1983 (f), Gentry, Vasquez & Jaramillo 42718 (holotype, MO; isotypes, AMAZ, USM). Figure 1.

Arbor parva, ramulis teretibus, glabris. Folia anguste elliptica vel elliptico-oblonga, apice abrupte per 1.5–3.5 cm caudata, glabra, membranacea. Inflorescentia pauciflora, pedicellis filiformibus, 1–1.5 mm longis. Flores in alabastro cylindrici, ca. 5 mm longi; calyce obtuse 4-lobulatos, 0.5 mm longo. Fructus globosus, ca. 2.5 cm diametro, calyce subpatelliformi expanso subtensus.

Treelet 3–5 m tall; branchlets slender, subterete, smooth, glabrous. Leaves narrowly elliptic or elliptic-oblong, the apex abruptly caudate-acuminate for 1.5–3.5 cm, the base  $\pm$  cuneate, membranaceous, olive green when dry, glabrous, 3.5–15 cm long (excluding drip tip), 1.2–4.5 cm wide, the lateral nerves 6–14 pairs; petiole slender, 4–8 mm long, ca. 1 mm thick. Inflorescence an open axillary panicle, few-flowered, the branches slender, the peduncle ca. 1 cm long, the flowers arranged in 2–3-flowered umbels at ends of the inflorescence branches, the filiform pedicels ca. 1–1.5 cm long. Flower bud a cylindrical tube with globose apex; calyx shallowly and obtusely 4-lobed, ca. 5 mm long at anthesis, much enlarged in fruit; petals 4, linear below, somewhat broadened at apex, greenish cream, ca. 5  $\times$  1 mm, forming a strictly cylindrical tube with a globose apex; stamens 4, the filaments connate into 4-mm-long tube, the anthers ca. 0.5 mm long, fused to an annulus, opening by a thin reflexing valve; pistil ca. 4 mm long, the slender style apically thickened at level of anthers. Fruit globose, single-seeded, green, ca. 2.5 cm diam., the fruiting calyx coriaceous, becoming broadly cup-shaped to almost patelliform, enveloping less than the basal quarter of drupe; seed globose, ca. 7 mm across.

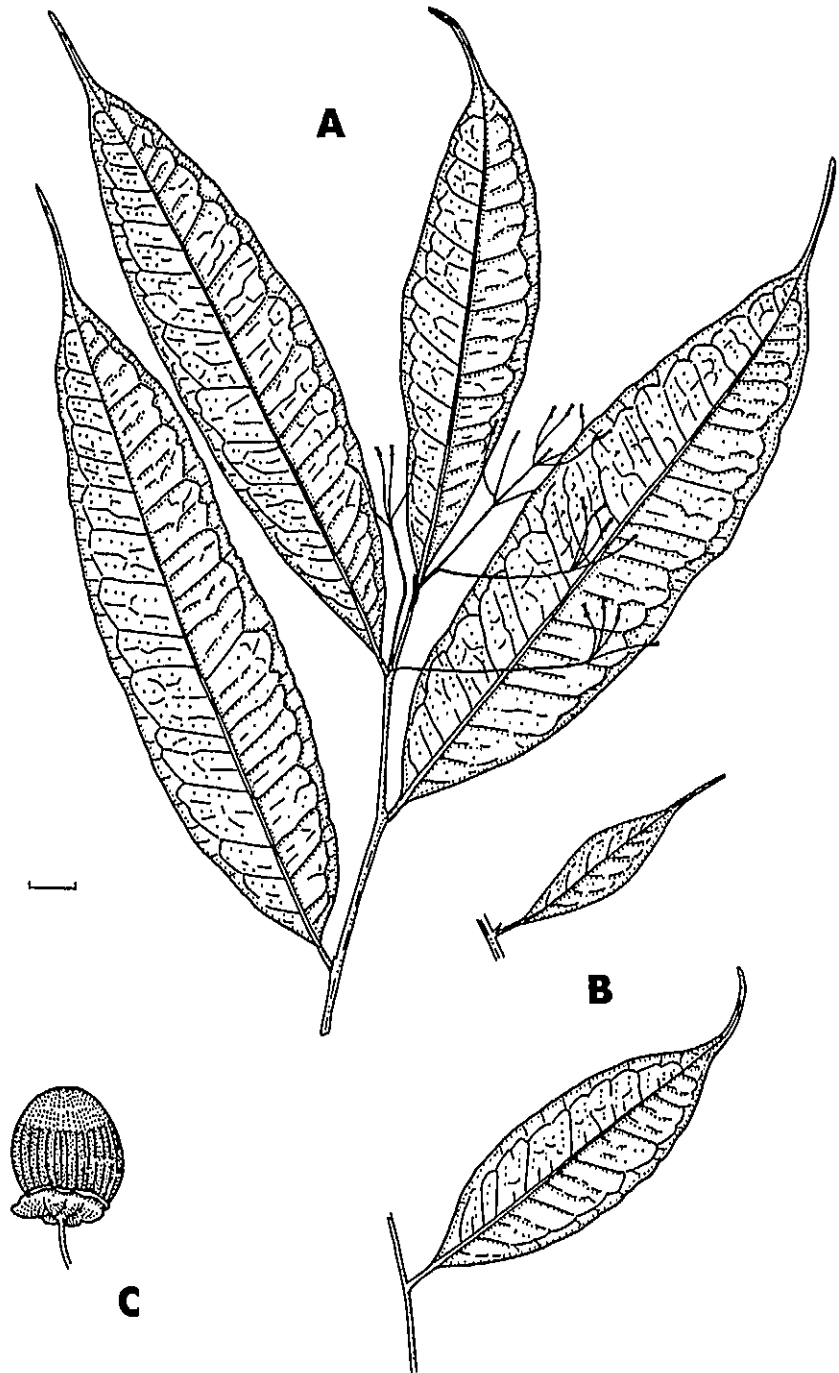
**Distribution.** Known only from the type locality at the Explornapo Camp on the Río Sucusari in Loreto Department, Peru, 116–130 m elevation.

**Additional collections examined.** PERU. LORETO: (all from type locality), 5 July 1983 (fl), Gentry et al. 42628 (AMAZ, MO, USM), 14 June 1986 (st), Gentry et al. 54321 (AMAZ, MO), 7 Oct. 1986 (st), Vasquez & Jaramillo 8156 (AMAZ, MO), 7 Nov. 1989 (fr), Vasquez & Jaramillo 13103 (AMAZ, MO, USM).

Only three species of *Aptandra* were recognized by Sleumer (1984), two in the Neotropics and one in tropical Africa. Of these, *A. caudata* is closest to *A. tubicina* (Poeppig) Benth. ex Miers, which also occurs in Amazonian Peru, on account of the membranaceous, cuneate leaves and strictly cylindrical pre-anthesis corolla tube. The most striking differentiating feature of *A. caudata* is the conspicuously caudate leaf apex, especially pronounced in small leaves where a 3-cm-long leaf can have a 1.5-cm-long drip tip. In contrast, *A. tubicina* is acuminate with the drip tip 0.5–1.5 cm long. The leaves of *A. caudata* are also narrower and more elliptic than in *A. tubicina*; although the latter sometimes has some leaves as narrow as those of *A. caudata*, the narrower leaves are mostly lanceolate. The flower of *A. caudata* is also noticeably longer (5 mm vs. 3 mm) than that of *A. tubicina* and has a more prominently globose bud apex and more shallowly and obtusely lobed calyx. Another difference is the almost patelliform fruiting calyx of *A. caudata*, which covers only the extreme base of the drupe and is very different from the broadly cupular calyx of *A. tubicina*, which covers most of the lower half of the drupe.

It is possible that two species are included in Sleumer's (1984) concept of *A. tubicina*: one with membranaceous to chartaceous, strongly acuminate leaves, which includes the type; the other with more subcoriaceous, subacuminate leaves and smaller, more numerous flowers, which is much more common, at least in Amazonian Peru. *Aptandra caudata* is vegetatively more similar to the Brazilian type material of *A. tubicina* than to the rest of the Peruvian material. However, *A. caudata* cannot be conspecific with either variant of *A. tubicina* because of the differences in size and shape of flowers and buds and the patelliform fruiting calyx.

*Aptandra caudata* is the largest-flowered species in the genus and approaches *Chaunochiton* in flower size and in the almost patelliformly expanded fruiting



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Figure 1. *Aptandra caudata* A. Gentry & Ortiz. —A. Habit (Gentry et al. 42718). —B. Variation in leaf size and shape (Vasquez & Jaramillo 8156). —C. Fruit (Vasquez & Jaramillo 13103). Scale bar = 1 cm.

calyx. It is locally one of the most common under-story species at the type locality, with seven treelets >2.5 cm DBH in a 0.1 ha. sample.

Literature Cited

Sleumer, H. O. 1984. Olacaceae. Fl. Neotrop. Monogr. 38: 1-139.