

A NEW SPECIES OF *STYLOGYNE* (MYRSINACEAE) FROM DARIÉN, PANAMA

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ABSTRACT

Preparation of a taxonomic treatment of the Myrsinaceae for the *Flora Mesoamericana* project resulted in the discovery of a new species, *Stylogyne pucuroensis* Ricketson & Pipoly, which is described and illustrated. Its closest relationship is with *S. ardisioides* A. DC. *Stylogyne glomeruliflora* is removed from the project area.

RESUMEN

Al preparar un tratamiento taxonómico de la familia Myrsinaceae para Flora Mesoamericana, se descubrió una especie nueva para la ciencia, *Stylogyne pucuroensis* Ricketson & Pipoly. Se describe, se ilustra y se discute el parentesco de la nueva especie. Se elimina la especie *Stylogyne glomeruliflora* como registro para Mesoamerica como resultado del estudio.

Stylogyne pucuroensis Ricketson & Pipoly, sp. nov. (**Fig. 1**). TYPE. PANAMA. DARIÉN: Parque Nacional del Darién, ridge between N & S branches of Río Pucuro, in forest N of old village of Tacarcuna, ca. 18 km E of Pucuro, 077° 16' W, 08° 05' N, 600–800 m, 24 Oct 1987 (fr.), B. Hammel, G. de Nevers, H. Cuadros & H. Herrera 16469 (HOLOTYPE: MO; ISOTYPES: FTG, LL, PMA).

Quoad inflorescentias laterales petiolos aequantes necnon flores 5-partitos *S. ardisioides* valde arcte affinis, sed ab ea laminis ellipticis (non oblongis), petiolis marginatis (non canaliculatis) sepalis ovatis vel oblongis (non subdeltatis vel deltatis) 1.3–1.5 (nec 1.6–2.0) mm longis atro- (nec pellucido-) punctatis, denique fructu stylo persistente (non caduco) perfacile recognoscitur.

Shrubs to 3.5 m tall. **Branchlets** slender, terete, 1–3 mm in diam., glabrous. **Leaves:** with blades membranous, elliptic, 8.8–14.6 cm long, 2.8–5.6 cm wide, apically acuminate, with an acumen 1–1.6 cm long, basally acute, decurrent on the petiole, conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous, the midrib impressed above, prominently raised below, the secondary veins 37–47 pairs, inconspicuous above and below, the margins entire, flat; petioles slender, marginate, 0.5–1 cm long, glabrous. **Inflorescences** lateral, appearing paniculate, 3–5-racemose branches from a common fascicle, 0.5–1 cm long, 1–1.5 cm wide, shorter than the leaves, the rachis glabrous, the branches 3–7-flowered racemes; peduncles nearly obsolete, glabrous; inflorescence bracts unknown; floral bracts persistent, chartaceous, ovate, 0.5–0.6 mm long, 0.5–0.8 mm wide, apically acute, prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous, the veins inconspicuous, the margins entire; pedicels slender, terete, 2.3–3.2 mm long,



FIG. 1. *Stylogyne pucuroensis* Ricketson & Pipoly. A. Flowering branch. B. Fruiting inflorescence. Drawn from holotype, B. Hammel et al. 16469 (MO).

prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous. **Flowers** 5-merous; calyx membranous, the sepals ovate to oblong, 1.3–1.5 mm long, 0.7–0.9 mm wide, apically acute, prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous, the margins entire; corolla, stamens and pistil unknown. **Fruits** red, globose, 4.5–5.3 mm in diam., conspicuously and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous, conspicuously costate, the style base persistent.

Distribution.—Known only from the type collection in the Parque Nacional del Darién, adjacent to the lower slopes of Cerro Tacarcuna, in Darién, Panama, growing between 600–800 m elevation.

Ecology and conservation status.—*Stylogyne pucuroensis* occurs in premontane pluvial forest. Because it occurs in a remote area of the Darién near the Panama-Colombia border and within the National park, this species should not be considered threatened at this time.

Etymology.—The specific epithet comes from its locality, near the Río Pucuro.

Because of its lateral inflorescences equal to the petioles and 5-merous flowers, *Stylogyne pucuroensis* is most closely related to *S. ardisioides*. However, *S. pucuroensis* has elliptic (not oblong) leaf blades, marginate (not canaliculate) petioles, ovate to oblong (not subdeltate to deltate) sepals 1.3–1.5 (not 1.6–2) mm long with black (not pellucid) punctations. Finally in *S. pucuroensis* the persistent (not caducous) style on the fruit permit easy recognition.

In our previous paper (Ricketson & Pipoly 1997) this collection was confused with *Stylogyne glomeruliflora* Cuatrec., a species from the Chocó Floristic Province. However, further studies of the genus *Stylogyne* have shown that *S. glomeruliflora* is a member of a small group of taxa with 4-merous flowers, while *S. pucuroensis* has a 5-merous flower. Although the small lateral inflorescences are similar, a number of taxa possess this character, including *S. darienensis*, which has much longer, racemose branches. *Stylogyne glomeruliflora* should not be considered a member of either the Panamanian or Mesoamerican floras. We therefore provide a revised key to the species of *Stylogyne* in Mesoamerica.

KEY TO MESOAMERICAN SPECIES OF *STYLOGYNE*

1. Leaf blades bullate, pubescent, the margins crenate _____ ***Stylogyne hayesii*** Mez
1. Leaf blades smooth, glabrous, the margins entire.
 2. Inflorescences lateral, sessile or subsessile corymbose or racemose, 3–7-racemes from a common fascicle.
 3. Inflorescences elongated racemes or corymbs, 2–4.5 cm long; pedicels 3–3.5 mm; anthers strictly longitudinally dehiscent; fruits 5.5–6.5 mm in diam. _____ ***Stylogyne darienensis*** Lundell
 3. Inflorescences short racemes, 0.5–1 cm long; pedicels 0.5–2 mm; anthers dehiscent by pores opening into longitudinal slits; fruits 4–5 mm in diam. _____ ***Stylogyne pucuroensis*** Ricketson & Pipoly

2. Inflorescences terminal and/or lateral, paniculate _____ **Stylogyne turbacensis**
(Kunth) Mez
4. Leaf blades obovate to oblanceolate, subcoriaceous, the punctations conspicuous above; inflorescences pyramidal-paniculate, mostly terminal, or occasionally terminal with few reduced lateral inflorescences _____ **Stylogyne turbacensis**
subsp. **turbacensis**
4. Leaf blades elliptic to oblong, coriaceous, the punctations inconspicuous from above; inflorescences columnar-paniculate, mostly lateral or rarely lateral and terminal or pseudoterminal _____ **Stylogyne turbacensis** subsp.
laevis (Oerst.) Ricketson & Pipoly

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