MYRSINE LUAE (MYRSINACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM BRAZIL

JON M. RICKETSON

Missouri Botanical Garden
P. O. Box 299, St. Louis MO 63166-0299, U.S.A.
jon.ricketson@mobot.org; jricketson@lehmann.mobot.org

JOHN J. PIPOLY III

Botanical Research Institute of Texas
509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.
jpipoly@brit.org; clusia@latinmail.com

ABSTRACT

A review of herbarium specimens of *Myrsine* for the *Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana* project revealed the presence of a distinctive new raxon from the Serra de Lua in the adjacent Territorio do Roraima, Brazil. *Myrsine luae* is described and illustrated, and its relationship to its nearest congener, *Myrsine guianensis* is discussed. An outline map showing the type locality is provided.

RESUMEN

Al estudiar pliegos del herbario pertenecientes al género *Myrsine* de la guayana venezolana, se encontró una especie nueva para la ciencia proveniente de la Serra de Lua, del Territorio do Roraima, Brazil; la zona brasileña adyacente a la guayana venezolana. Se describe, se ilustre y se discute el parentezco de la nueva especie, *Myrsine luae*. También incluye un mapa mostrando la localidad tipa.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Myrsine* R. Br. contains ca. 300 species of which nearly 1/4 remain undescribed. C. Chen and Pipoly (1996), Pipoly (1991, 1992a, 1992b, 1996), Pipoly and C. Chen (1995), and Ricketson and Pipoly (1997) have provided summaries of evidence for broader circumscription of the genus, especially to include *Rapanea* Aubl. *Myrsine* is pantropically distributed, occurring in diverse vegetation types, from mangroves to subalpine scrub, but always in moist, wet or pluvial habitats. The genus is defined by lateral (axillary), fasiculate or umbellate inflorescences, sessile or on short, perennating peduncles girdled by persistent floral bracts, thus forming "short shoots." In preparation for our treatment of the genus *Myrsine* for *Flora of the Venezuelan Guyana*, a new species from just out side the region in the state of Roraima in Brazil was discovered and is described herewith.

Myrsine luae Ricketson & Pipoly, sp. nov. (**Fig. 1**). TYPE. BRAZIL. RORAIMA: Summir of Serra da Lua, 02° 25–29' N, 60° 11–14' W, 1,400 m, 24 Jan 1969 (fr), *G. Prance, J. Steward, J. Ramos & L. Farias 9416* (HOLOTYPE: NY; ISOTYPES: BRIT, INPA n.v.).

FIG. 1. Distribution of *Myrsine luae* Ricketson & Pipoly.

Quoad ramulos glabros, lamina coriacea nitidaque, petiolos marginatos, inflorescentiam 5–8-floribus, M. guianensi valde arcte affinis sed ab ea ramulis angulatis (non teretibus), necnon pedicelis angulatis (nec teretibus), perianthis coriaceis (non chartaceis), stigmatibus sinuato-capitatus (non conicis), denique fructibus ellipsoideis vel obovoideis (non globosis), praeclare distat.

Tree 4 m tall, 10 cm DBH. *Branchlets* ridged, 0.5 cm in diameter, glabrous apically. *Leaves* alternate; blades coriaceous, elliptic to oblanceolate, 4–9.5 cm long, 1.6–3.5 cm wide, apically acute, basally acute, decurrent on petiole, smooth, shiny and nited above, dull and inconspicuously black punctate below, the midrib slightly impressed above, prominently elevated below, the secondary nerves not prominent, 13–15 pairs, the margins entire, flat to subrevolute, opaque, minutely glandular-ciliolate in bud, glabrous at maturity; petioles marginate, 0.5–1 cm long, glabrous. *Staminate inflorescence* unknown. *Pistillate inflorescence* a subsessile, 5–8-flowered umbel; peduncle obsolete to 3 mm long; floral bracts, deltate, 1–1.2 mm long, 1–1.2 mm wide, apically acute, early caducous, glabrous, the margins ciliolate; pedicels angulate, 2–3 mm long, glabrous. *Staminate flowers* 5-merous; calyx coriaceous, cotyliform, 1–1.5 mm long, the tube 0.3–0.5 mm long, the lobes ovate, 1–1.2 mm long, 0.8–1 mm wide, apically acute, conspicuously punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous, the margins entire, glandular-ciliolate; corolla chartaceous, subrotate, 1.8–2.1 mm long, the tube 0.5–0.6 mm long, the lobes lanceolate, 1.3–1.5 mm long, 0.7–0.9 mm wide, apically acute, densely and prominently punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous, the margins

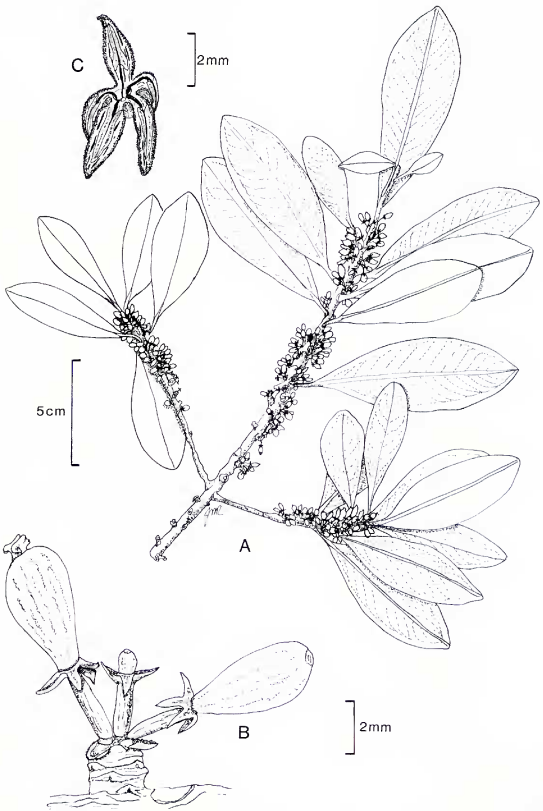

FIG. 2. *Myrsine lnae* Ricketson & Pipoly. A. Branchlet. B. Infructescence, showing obovoid fruit shape. C. Pistillate corolla, showing hastate antherode and marginal glandular granules. A-C, drawn from holotype.

entire, minutely glandular-ciliolate; staminodes inserted at junction of corolla tube and lobe, the sterile anthers subsessile, oblong, 0.9–1 mm long, 0.1–0.2 mm wide at apex, 0.4–0.5 mm wide at base, apically apiculate, the apiculum proximally curved, basally deeply cordate, the connective epunctate; pistil 1–1.9 mm long, the ovary globose, 1–1.2 mm long, 0.7–0.9 mm in diameter, prominently pellucid punctate and punctate-lineate, the stigma sessile, sinuate-capitate, prominently vertically lobed, 0.5–0.7 mm long, 0.5–0.8 mm wide, persistent in fruit, placenta globose, 2-ovulate. *Fruit* green, cylindrical to obovate, 3.5–4 mm long, 2.4–3 mm in diameter at the apex, 1.2–1.7 mm in diameter at the base, prominently pellucid punctate and punctate-lineate, glabrous.

Distribution.—Known only from the type on the summit of Serra da Lua, Roraima, Brazil (Fig. 2), growing at 1,400 m elevation.

Ecology and conservation status.—*Myrsine luae* inhabits cloud forests in Serra da Lua, a somewhat isolated range of mountains. No ecological notes are on the type collection, but it is from an area known for granitic mountains inhabited by vine forests, with cloud forests above.

Etymology.—Names for the location of the type locality, Serra da Lua, Territorio do Roraima, Brazil.

Myrsine luae is most closely related to *M. guianensis*, but is easily recognized by its angulate branchlets and pedicels, coriaceous calyx sessile, sinuate-capitate stigma and ellipsoid or obovoid fruit.

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