

***Thelypteris oroniensis*, a New Species from Costa Rica**

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The genus *Thelypteris* is one of the largest and most homogeneous of tropical ferns. Morphologically, it forms a very natural group, such as that of *Elaphoglossum*. Over 80 species of *Thelypteris* are known from Costa Rica, and yet recently a new species has been discovered on the isolated summits of the coastal hills facing the Caribbean, which is here described as:

***Thelypteris oroniensis* L. D. Gómez, sp. nov.**

Fig. 1.

Herba terrestris, rhizomate suberecto, lignoso, paucissime squamoso vel quasi glabro, squamis ample-latissimis, ambarinis, clathratis, stipitibus fasciculatis, stramineis, canaliculatis, pilis 1-cellulatis et stellatis dispersis. Frondes pinnatae, pinnis retroflexis, 7 paribus alternibus, rachibus flexuosis, pinnis basalibus sessilibus vel subsessilibus, venis utrinque 7-9 paribus per segmento. Indusium nullum.

Herbaceous, terrestrial plants with suberect rhizome 1.5-2 cm thick, woody, with a few amber brown, wide, clathrate scales. Stipes fasciculate, stramineous, 21-25 cm long, 2.5 mm in diameter, below with a few paleae, above glabrous, canaliculate, above with 1-celled and stellate hairs mixed. Fronds pinnate, with 7 pairs of alternate, retroflexed pinnae, the apical pinna conform, often with a long, adnate basal segment; fronds lanceolate in outline, truncate at the base, 40-45 cm long, 25-27 cm wide, papyraceous, green above, glaucous-greenish underneath, both surfaces glabrous. Rachis flexuose, helicoidal in growth, with mixed 1-celled and stellate hairs. Basal pinnae subsessile; middle pinnae and upper pinnae sessile. Pinnae 11-15 cm long, 2.5-3.7 cm wide, elongate-lanceolate, the apex narrowly acuminate, with 21 pairs of segments, some often lacking and reduced to a narrow wing, the basal pinnules unequal, the upper ones reduced or even absent, the lower ones auriculate, broad, and overlapping the rachis. Veins 7-9 pairs per segment. Sori medial; indusia absent. Sporangia with acicular hairs on the walls and stalks. Many spores aborted.

HOLOTYPE: Monte Oróni (Chase 27), lower Talamanca, Pcia. Limón, Costa Rica, *Ocampo 1635* (CR 64453; isotypes UC, US).

Thelypteris oroniensis resembles *T. nicaraguensis* (Fourn.) Morton in habit and pinna shape, but differs from it and other species of subg. *Goniopteris* by its flexuose rachises and helicoidal growth of the plants. Among the New World species of *Thelypteris*, only one Ecuadorian species of subg. *Amauropelta* has flexuose rachises.

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FIG. 1. Holotype of *Thelypteris oroniensis*, *Ocampo 1635* (CR).