

Revision of the *Solanum medians* Complex (*Solanum section Petota*) (2008)

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Abstract

Solanum medians is a widely distributed species of wild potato (*Solanum* sect. *Petota*), growing along the coastal lomas and up the western slopes of the Andes Mountains from central Peru and northern Chile, from 200–3800 m elevation. Fertile diploid and sterile triploid cytotypes are common, are believed to be associated with morphological variants, and are formally named as subspecies. A morphometric study based on principal components and canonical discriminant analyses of characters obtained from herbarium specimens tests the circumscription of these subspecies and other currently recognized species that are very similar to *S. medians*. The results show so much overlap of these taxa that it is impractical to use morphology to define species or to provide reliable keys or identifications. We synonymize ten names under *S. medians*: *S. medians* var. *angustifoliolum*, *S. medians* var. *majorifrons* subvar. *majorifrons*, *S. medians* var. *majorifrons* subvar. *protophyleucum*, *S. medians* var. *autumnale*, *S. sandemannii*, *S. tacnaense*, *S. weberbaueri* var. *decurrentialatum*, *S. tacnaense* f. *decurrentialatum*, *S. weberbaueri*, *S. weberbaueri* var. *poscoanum*. We also treat *S. neoweberbaueri* as a closely related species to *S. medians*. We consider the synonymy in *S. medians* to be part of a much larger need for reduction of names in sect. *Petota*.

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