

A NEW COMBINATION IN *MATELEA* (APOCYNACEAE:
ASCLEPIADOIDEAE) FOR AN ENDEMIC JAMAICAN VINE

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ABSTRACT

A new combination in *Matelea* (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae) for an endemic Jamaican vine is proposed.

RESUMEN

Se propone una combinación nueva en *Matelea* (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae) para una trepadora endémica de Jamaica.

Critical study of West Indian specimens of subtribe Gonolobinae (Apocynaceae: Asclepiadoideae) has resulted in the need for a new combination for an endemic Jamaican vine:

Matelea rhamnifolia (Griseb.) Krings, comb. nov. *Gonolobus rhamnifolius* Griseb., Fl. Brit. W.I. 420. 1862. Protologue: 'Jamaica! Al., S. Anns, near Moneague.' TYPE: JAMAICA: R.C. Alexander s.n. (HOLOTYPE: GOET!)

The critical character defining placement in *Gonolobus* Michx.—dorsal anther appendages (Woodson 1941; Rosatti 1989; Stevens 2001)—is lacking, although mistakenly attributed to the species by Adams (1972). Other characters that have been used to refer taxa to *Gonolobus* include winged follicles and the absence of glandular hairs (see Woodson 1941). Follicles are unknown for *Matelea rhamnifolia*, although suspected to be winged, not muricate, based on its affinities to *M. correllii* Spellman. The follicle character is moot, however, as few fruit collections were apparently available to Woodson (1941) and more recent analysis has shown the character not to be useful in generic delimitation (Krings, unpubl.). Glandular hairs, although thought characteristic of *Matelea* Aubl. by Woodson (1941), are also without circumscriptional value in the *Gonolobus*-*Matelea* question, being present in both the type of *Gonolobus* Michx. (i.e., *G. suberosus* (L.) R. Br.) and numerous species lacking dorsal anther appendages (Rosatti 1989), including *M. rhamnifolia*.

The Jamaican endemic *Matelea rhamnifolia* appears most closely related to the Cuban endemic *M. nipensis* (Urb.) Woodson (at least among West Indian taxa); both likely belonging to a complex also including the Cuban endemics

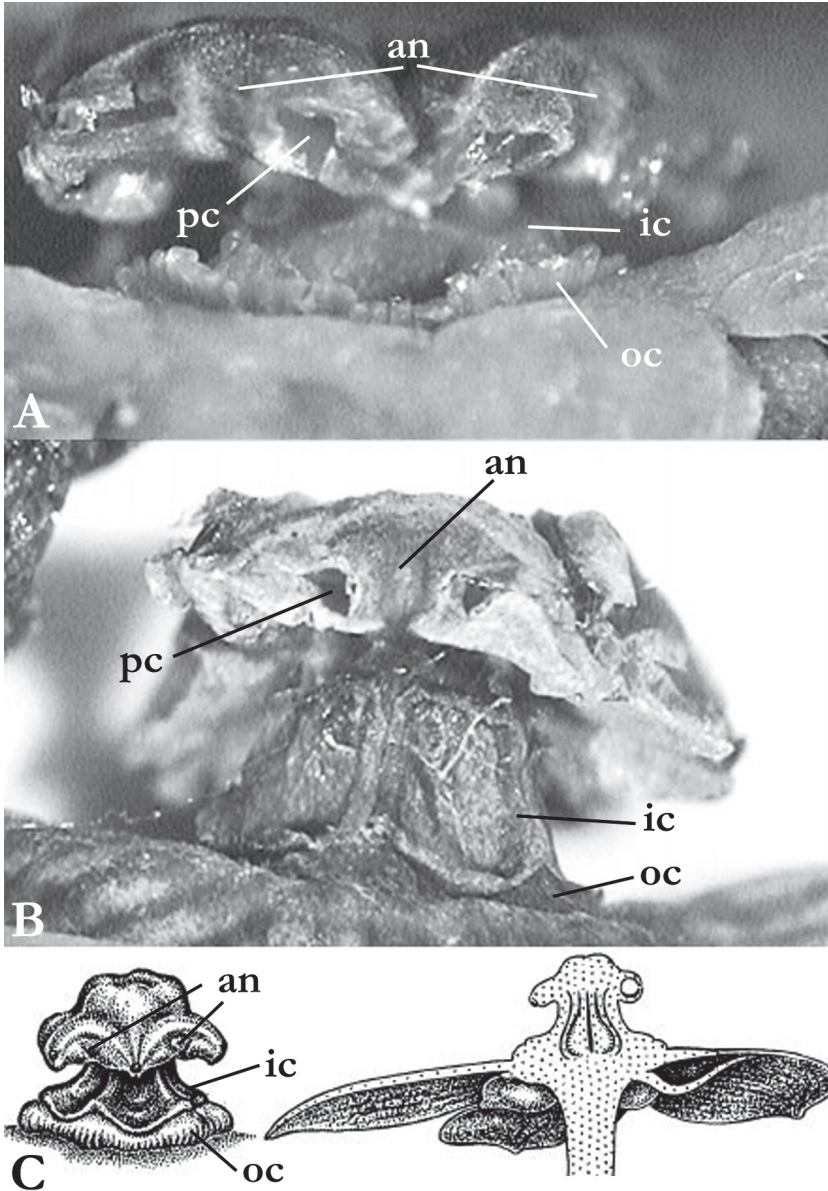


FIG. 1. Corona and gynostegium morphology of: (A) the Jamaican endemic *Matelea rhamnifolia* (from Proctor 11825, GH) and the related (B) Cuban endemic *M. nipensis* (from Webster 3813, GH) and (C) Bahaman endemic *M. correllii* (from Spellman 1978). Note absence of dorsal anther appendages in all three species. an=anther; ic=inner corona; oc=outer corona; pc=pollinium cavity.

M. bayatensis (Urb.) Woodson and *M. tigrina* (Griseb.) Woodson and the Bahaman endemic *M. correllii*. *Mateleia rhamnifolia* and *M. nipensis* share oblong leaves that are basally truncate or rounded, reduced peduncles, short corolla lobes, and gynostegial coronas of similar morphology. Both species exhibit a low, somewhat undulating outer corona which subtends an inner corona and the associated staminal tube (Fig. 1A, B). The same morphology is present in *M. correllii* and was well-illustrated in the protologue of this latter species (Fig. 1C). The corolla lobes of both *M. rhamnifolia* and *M. nipensis* are also reticulate (at least when dry) and bear a white spot at each of the apices – both characters shared by the larger-flowered members of the complex mentioned above and the continental *M. pusilliflora* L.O. Williams. *Mateleia rhamnifolia* is distinguished from *M. nipensis* by its larger leaves, a longer and more well-developed floral tube (ca. 1.3 mm vs. ≤ 0.5 mm), and a shorter filament tube (0.5 mm vs. 0.7 mm).

Representative specimens examined: *Mateleia nipensis* (Urb.) Woodson: **CUBA**: Ekman 9710 (ISOTYPES: NY, S); Berazain & Alvarez 24357 (HAJB); Clemente 4342 (NY); Webster 3813 (GH).

Mateleia rhamnifolia (Griseb.) Krings: **JAMAICA**: Alexander s.n. (HOLOTYPE: GOET); Proctor 11825 (GH, IJ).

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