Phytotaxa 238 (3): 201–229
www.mapress.com/phytotaxa/

Article

ISSN 1179-3155 (print edition)
PHYTOTAXA
ISSN 1179-3163 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.238.3.1

Thirteen new Amazonian Myrtaceae

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Abstract

We here describe, illustrate and compare with related species *Calyptranthes corticosa*, *Myrcia breviflora, M. cantana, M. castanea, M. divisoria, M. integra, M. laxa, M. longiramea, M. manausensis, M. maraana, M. symmetrica, M. uaioai* and *Plinia humaitana*. *Calyptranthes corticosa*, from the Brazilian state of Acre, is related to *C. paniculata*, but is distinguished by its strongly angulate twigs and pauciflorous inflorescences; *Myrcia breviflora*, from the Brazilian state of Amazonas, is related to *M. tafelbergica*, but has shorter inflorescences with pentamerous flowers; *M. cantana*, from the Brazilian state of Roraima, is close to *M. saxatilis*, but has narrower blades and tetramerous flowers; *M. castanea*, from Amazonas, is related to *M. magnoliifolia*, but has persistently pilose, bullate leaves and densely pilose inflorescences and flowers; *M. divisoria*, from Acre, is related to *M. calycampa*, but has pilose twigs, larger blades and longer inflorescences with persisting bracts; *M. integra*, from the Brazilian states of Amazonas and Roraima and the Peruvian department of Loreto, is related to *Marlierea umbraticola*, but is distinguished by the blades with adaxially raised midvein and tetramerous flowers; *M. laxa*, from Amazonas, is related to *M. aequatoriensis*, but has smaller petioles, blades not bullate and pilose flowers; *M. longiramea*, from Amazonas, is related to *M. clusiifolia*, but has narrower blades crowded at the top of long branches and tetramerous flowers; *M. manausensis*, from Amazonas, is related to *M. splendens* but has blades with larger glandular dots and flowers with ovary longitudinally ridged; *M. maraana*, from Amazonas, is related to *M. obumbrans*, but has narrower, discolorous blades and tetramerous flowers; *M. symmetrica*, from the states of Amazonas and Pará, is close to *M. plusiantha*, but differs by its mostly acuminate blades, shorter inflorescences and tetramerous flowers; *M. uaioai*, from Roraima, is related to *Myrcia gentryi*, being distinguished through its elliptic blades with adaxially raised midvein and consistently solitary flowers, and *Plinia humaitana*, from Amazonas, is related to *P. pinnata*, but has shorter, wider blades and seed without hypocotyl. Additionally, conservation status is proposed for all species; nevertheless, considering the fact that several species are known only from one collection a/or by mostly ancient collections, their status attribution is necessarily tentative.

Keywords: Brazil, Peru, *Calyptranthes*, *Marlierea*, *Myrcia*, *Plinia*

Introduction

Northern Brazil is one of the least surveyed areas in the country. There are presently registered from there about 711,800 botanical gatherings (CRIA 2015) along an area of 3,856,560 km² comprising the states of Acre, Amapá, Amazonas, Pará, Rondônia, Roraima and Tocantins (IBGE 2015a), summing an average of 0.18 collection/km², a sampling effort markedly smaller than the collection density reported as minimally acceptable for tropical countries, which is about 1 collection/km² (Campbell, 1989; but see Shepherd 2003, who states 3 collections/km² as a more realistic amount). Nevertheless, although still limited in its total representation of the Amazonian flora, local herbaria still harbor unidentified collections that have not been adequately surveyed by the taxonomic community. Along a study of the specimens of Myrtaceae kept mainly in the herbarium of Brazil's Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA), we have spotted several gatherings that in our opinion represent undescribed species which we propose as new. It is interesting to note that many of the species presented here are known only for their types or very few—and in some cases also quite old—collections. We are aware of the risks of proposing new species based in scarce material; on the other hand, we hope that the distinctiveness of most species described allied to the astonishing scarcity of collections from northern Brazil may serve as a compelling demonstration either of the unknown Amazonian diversity as of the necessity of investing more intensively in collection efforts there.

Accepted by Renato Goldenberg: 24 Nov. 2015; published: 16 Dec. 2015