

NEW SPECIES OF JUSTICIA (ACANTHACEAE)
FROM VENEZUELA

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Recent efforts to identify specimens of Justicia collected in Venezuela's Morrocoy National Park have resulted in the recognition of the following undescribed taxon.

JUSTICIA FALCONENSIS Wassh., sp. nov.

Frutex, caulibus subquadrangularibus glabris; foliorum lamina oblongo-elliptica vel ovata, breviter acuminata, basi angustata, subcoriacea, integra vel undulata, supra atrovirens, subtus hebetate viridis, glabra, cystolithis conspicuis; paniculae terminales, ramis in spicas compactas terminalibus, pedunculis et internodiis panicularum quadrangularibus, glabris vel parce puberulis; bractee spicas subtendentes subulatae; bractee flores subtendentes triangulares; calycis segmenta lineari-lanceolata; corolla aliquanto aurantiaca, puberula, labiis subaequalibus, labio superiore oblongo-ovato, apice rotundato, emarginato, labio inferiore patulo, 3-lobato, lobis rotundatis; stamina exserta, filamentis glabris, antherarum lobis superpositis, lobo inferiore breviter calcarato; ovarium glabrum.

Shrub 1.5-3 m high; stems erect or ascending, subquadrangular, the angles rounded, glabrous, the internodes 2-5 cm long; leaf blades oblong-elliptic to ovate, 5-10 cm long and 2-3.5 cm wide, short-acuminate (the tip obtuse), narrowed at base, subcoriaceous, entire or undulate, dark green above, dull green below, both surfaces glabrous, the costa and lateral veins (4-6 pairs) prominent, cystoliths prominent on both surfaces; petioles 0.5-1 cm long, glabrous, 2 mm thick; flowers borne in short, dense, axillary and terminal spikes, these borne in pairs or in threes, 1-4 cm long, and 8 mm broad, these forming an open terminal panicle to 6 cm long and 2 cm broad, the lowermost internodes of the panicle 1.5 cm long, the peduncles of the spikes 5 mm long, both the peduncles and the internodes of the panicle quadrangular and glabrous or sparingly puberulous, the nodes of the panicle bearing a pair of small leaves (their blades about 1.5 cm long and 1 cm wide); bracts subtending spikes subulate, 4 mm long, 0.75 mm wide at base, sparingly hirtellous, the hairs ascending, rigid, cystoliths numerous and conspicuous, bracts subtending flowers triangular, 1 mm long, 0.5 mm wide at base, acute, firm, sparingly hirtellous and ciliate, the hairs rigid, mostly straight; calyx 5 mm long, sparingly hirtellous and ciliate, the segments linear-lanceolate, 3 mm long and 1 mm wide at base, acute, bearing numerous minute cystoliths conspicuous under a lens; corolla from base to tip of

the lips, 3.5 cm long, puberulous, orange to orange-red, the tube 2 mm broad at base, expanding at 2 mm above base to 3.5 mm, the upper expanded portion cylindric, the upper lip erect, oblong-ovate, 14 mm long, 6 mm wide at base, 1 mm wide at rounded, emarginate tip, the lower lip spreading or recurved, elliptic, 4 mm wide, 3-lobed at tip, the lobes about 1.5 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, rounded; stamens exserted, equaling or slightly shorter than the corolla lips, the filaments glabrous, the anthers 3.5 mm long, 0.5 mm broad, glabrous, vertically attached to the connective, the lower lobe terminating in a blunt white spur 1 mm long, pollen grains 2-porate, bilateral, 38 μ long and 24 μ wide; pistil slightly shorter than the stamens, the stigma minute, rounded, bilobed, ovary glabrous; capsule clavate, 2.2 cm long, 4 mm broad, 4 mm thick, brownish, glabrous; seeds 4, brownish, orbicular, flattened, about 3 mm long and wide, 0.5 mm thick, muricate, the projections rounded.

Type. J. A. Steyermark & B. J. Manara 110969 (holotype US, isotype VEN), Venezuela, Falcon: Distrito Silva: Cerro Chichiriviche, along CANTV road above La Luisa, between Morrocoy and La Soledad, 20-50 m alt, 6 Sep 1974.

Distribution. Growing along densely forested dry slopes and in deciduous forest above line of small limestone bluffs in the state of Falcon, Venezuela, at elevation between 4-50 m. Distrito Silva: along S side of Golfete de Guare, SW of Isla Villalba and Chichiriviche, W of la Cueva de Los Indios, 31 Aug 1974, J. A. Steyermark & B. J. Manara 110502 (US, VEN); S of Punta Faustino, SE of Chichiriviche, 29 Aug 1974, J. A. Steyermark & B. J. Manara 110392 (US, VEN).

Justicia falconensis is not nearly allied to the other known species.



Fig. 1. *Justicia falconensis* Wassh.: A, habit, X $\frac{1}{2}$; B, spike with bracts and calyces, X 3; C, calyx, X 3; D, corolla, X $1\frac{1}{2}$; E, corolla expanded, X $1\frac{1}{2}$.

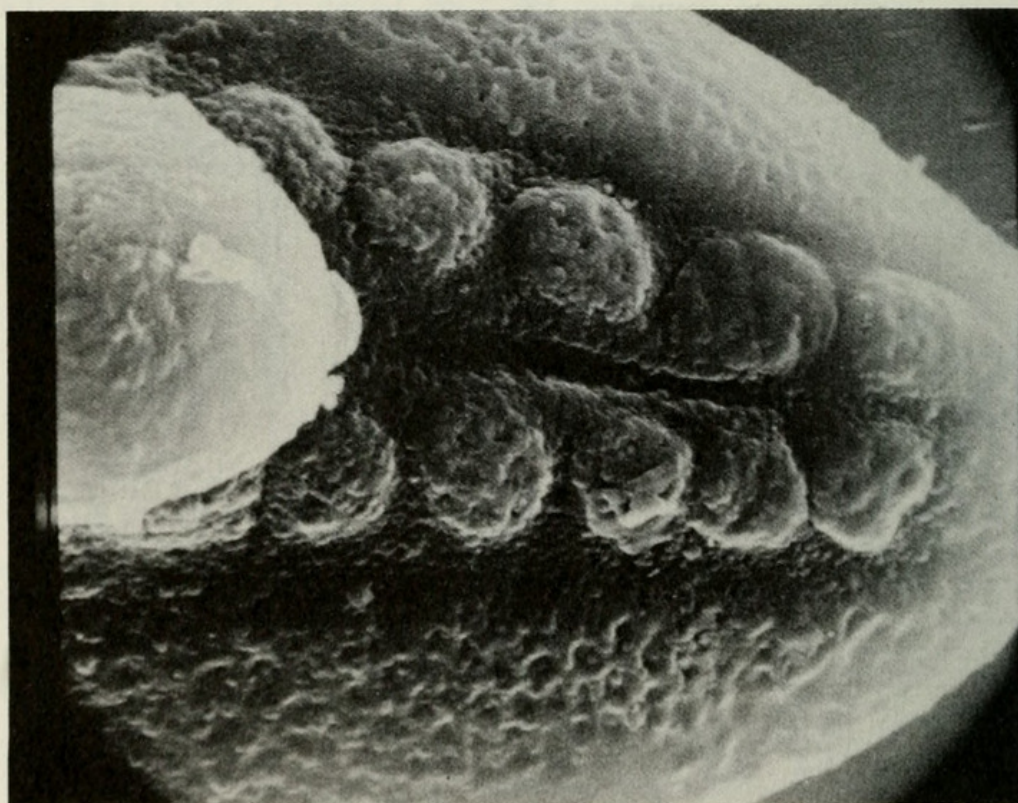
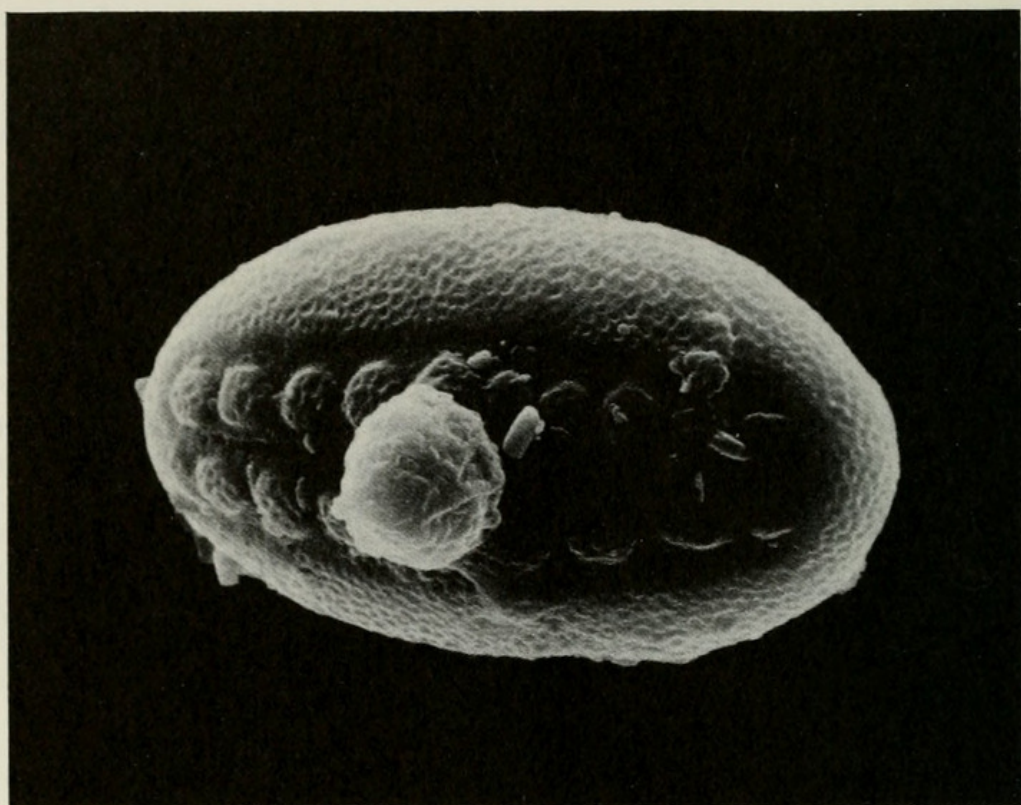


Fig. 2. Pollen grain of Justicia falconensis Wssh., (J. A. Steyermark & B. J. Manara 110392); above, equatorial view, X 2000; below, surface view showing one row of insulae on either side of the aperture, X 3000.



Wasshausen, Dieter C. 1982. "New species of *Justicia* (Acanthaceae) from Venezuela." *Phytologia* 52(2), 95–98.

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