A New Species of *Citharexylum* (Verbenaceae) from Ecuador

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Citharexylum* from Ecuador (*C. grandiflorum*) is described, and its relationships with related species are discussed. This new species can be distinguished from all others in the genus by its significantly larger corolla.

RESUMEN. Se describe una nueva especie del género *Citharexylum* de Ecuador (*C. grandiflorum*), y se discuten sus relaciones morfológicas con las especies afines. Esta nueva especie posee las flores de mayor tamaño conocidas dentro del género *Citharexylum*.

The genus *Citharexylum* L. consists of 125 species and varieties (Jansen-Jacobs, 1988) from Bermuda, Florida, Texas, Mexico, Central America, the West Indies, Guianas, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, and Uruguay, being most diverse in the Andes and Mexico (Moldenke, 1958a).

Citharexylum belongs to the subfamily Verbenoideae, which is differentiated from the rest of the family by having a racemose inflorescence (Cantino, 1992). It is easy to separate from the other neotropical arboreous Verbenaceae by two features: a pair of glands at the top of the petiole or base of the blade, and the spike-shaped inflorescences. Additionally, like the genus *Aegiphila* the fruit is halfway enclosed by the calyx (López-Palacios, 1977).

Although a considerable amount (17 papers) of information about *Citharexylum* was published by Moldenke in the journal *Phytologia* from 1958 to 1981, we consider this genus to be not well known because the information remains dispersed and was never assembled into a reliable monograph, as has been discussed in various flora accounts (López-Palacios, 1977; Nash & Nee, 1984; Jansen-Jacobs, 1988, Aymard & Stergios, 1991; Nicolson, 1991).

Citharexylum grandiflorum Aymard & Rueda, sp. nov. TYPE: Ecuador. Napo: Jatun Sacha Biological Station, primary tropical wet forest, on low hills, 01°04′S, 77°36′W, 450 m, Jan. 1989 (fl), *D. Neill 9144* (holotype, MO; isotypes, AAU, NY, QCA, QCNE, US). Figure 1.

Haec species *C. poeppigii* Walpers affinis sed ab eo petiolo glandibus duabus 2.5–3 mm longis, praedito lamina foliari subtus parce pilosa glabrescenteve, inflorescentia 18–24 cm longa, floribus pedicellatis, tubo corollae 30–35 mm longo, differt.

Tree 7–9 m tall; branches lanate at tip and glabrescent on the lower part, flattened to tetragonal or 5-angled, hollow; nodes obliquely annulate, glabrous or lanate. Leaves ternate, blades thin-chartaceous, elliptic to elliptic-obovate, sometimes unequal in size on the same node, 13–26 × 4.5–9 cm, broadly acute and apiculate at the apex, broadly acute at the base, punctate and glabrous on upper surface, sparsely pilose to glabrescent on under surface, except along the venation, where it is puberulent; secondary veins 10–14 per side, venation impressed on the upper surface and prominent on lower surface; margins entire; petioles 2–5 cm long, sparsely adpressed pubescent, channeled above, bearing a pair of glands on the upper ¾ part of its length, 2.5–3 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, axillary, one or two per node, nutant, simple, rachis about 5 mm thick and 18–24 cm long, loosely many-flowered, sparsely pilose; bracts acuminate 2 mm long; pedicels ca. 2 mm long. Calyx 5–7 mm long, 5-dentate, the teeth very broadly rounded and apiculate, sometimes with round-shaped glands, about 5 mm wide at the mouth, externally minutely puberulent; sericeous adpressed pubescent internally; corolla white, infundibular; its tube 30–35 mm long, externally glabrous, internally pubescent at the mouth and around the stamen insertion, 5-parted; lobes ovate-lingulate, 6–7 × 3–4 mm; stamens 5, 3

Figure 1. *Citharexylum grandiflorum* Aymard & Rueda (*Neill 9144*, MO). —A. Habit. —B. Glands of the petioles 2.5–3 mm long.

shorter and 2 longer, included, inserted about 10, 12, and 14 mm from the corolla mouth; filament 1–1.5 mm long, glabrescent, style rather thick, 2–3 mm long, glabrous; stigma to 1 mm wide, slightly bilobed, pistil included; ovary obovate, 1–1.5 × 1 mm. Fruit not seen.

Distribution and habitat. *Citharexylum grandiflorum* is known from the upper Río Napo, Jatun Sacha Biological Station, at 450 m. It occurs in primary wet forest on red clay oxisols, in low hills.

Because of its ternate leaves *Citharexylum grandiflorum* is related to *C. poeppigii* Walpers from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia (Moldenke, 1958b, 1959), but it can be distinguished from this species by the glands on the petioles 2.5–3 mm long, leaf blades sparsely pilose to glabrescent beneath, inflorescences 18–24 cm long, flowers pedunculate, and corolla tube 30–35 mm long. In contrast, *C. poeppigii* has glands of the petiole 5 mm long, leaf blades densely short-pubes-

cent beneath, inflorescences 4–16 cm long, flowers sessile or subsessile, and corolla tube 4–20 mm long.

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