

NOTE

A RANGE EXTENSION FOR *FERNALDIA SPECIOSISSIMA*
(APOCYNACEAE, SUBFAMILY APOCYNODEAE)

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Lundell (1976) treated *Fernaldia pandurata* (A. DC.) Woodson var. *glabra* Ant. Molina as a species distinct from *F. pandurata* by recognizing the taxon at the species level as *F. glabra* (Ant. Molina) C. L. Lundell. Lundell regarded *F. glabra* as distinct on the basis of its glabrous habit, longer pedicels (18–21 mm vs. 8–12 mm), and longer anthers (9 mm vs. 6 mm). Lundell did not base these observations on the type of var. *glabra*, but rather on two unique specimens collected from Guatemala (*E. Contreras* 5925 & 7008). The type of var. *glabra* differs from *F. pandurata* in only its glabrous habit (the peduncles are moderately pubescent) and not in pedicel or anther dimension. Observations of more than a hundred specimens of *F. pandurata* collected throughout Mexico and Central America reveal that the only specimens that lack pubescence are the type specimen of var. *glabra* and the two specimens Lundell (1976) cited for *F. glabra* (*E. Contreras* 5925 & 7008). Williams (1999) noted that the type of var. *glabra* differs little from *F. pandurata* and treated the variety as a synonym of *F. pandurata*; this decision was further supported by Morales (2002). Williams recognized however, that the specimens *E. Contreras* 5925 & 7008 were aberrant and suggested that they might represent an undescribed species. Williams refrained from describing a new species suggesting that “in time, through more vigorous collecting, additional populations of the aberrant individuals may be found.”

Recently, Morales (2002) published a revision of *Fernaldia*. In this work, Morales presented evidence that showed a recent aberrant specimen of *Fernaldia*, collected by him in Costa Rica (*Morales* 7131), is a specimen of a nearly unknown species: *F. speciosissima* Woodson. In fact, the specimen collected by Morales is the first recognized collection of *F. speciosissima* since the species was described. The identification by Morales is extremely important because the type specimen consists of only three flowers; no stems, leaves, or



Figure 1. Specimen of *Fernaldia speciosissima* (E. Contreras 7008, LL).

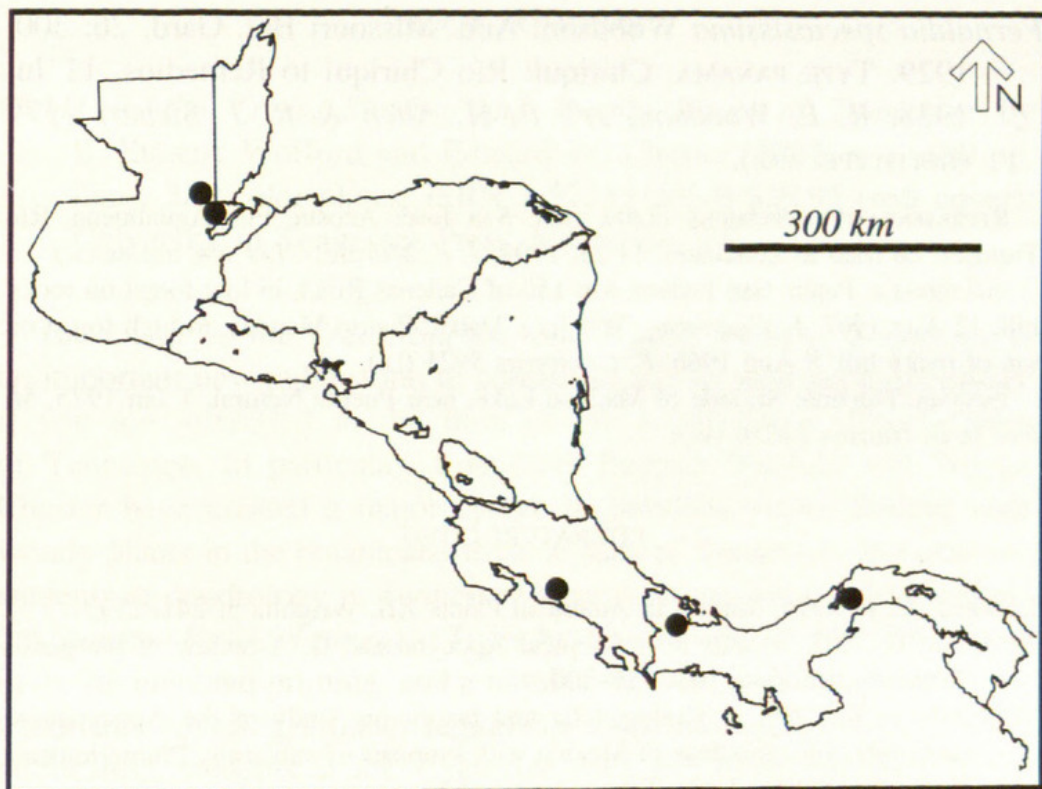


Figure 2. Distribution of *Fernaldia speciosissima*.

vegetative parts of any kind are present on the type. With this fortuitous specimen, Morales was able to expand the description of *F. speciosissima* in his revision. Morales was also able to write a key, based on both floral and vegetative characters, to the three recognized species of *Fernaldia*.

Using the key to the species of *Fernaldia* provided in Morales (2002), I attempted to identify the aberrant specimens (*E. Contreras* 5925 & 7008) discussed in Lundell (1976) and Williams (1999). Examination of the specimens indicates that they have peduncles 15–23 cm long, corolla tubes 19–24 mm long (Figure 1), and anthers 9–11 mm long, just as Morales described for *F. speciosissima*. The enigmatic specimens, *E. Contreras* 5925 & 7008, are consequently treated as *F. speciosissima*. Morales reported the distribution of *F. speciosissima* as Panama and Costa Rica. With the identification of the above specimens, the known range of the species is extended north into Guatemala (Figure 2). Another rare Apocynaceae vine, *Echites turbinata* Woodson, has a similar disjunct distribution (eastern Chiapas, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Panama). In addition, the phenology of the species is extended into August, a month past the previously reported flowering period of July (Morales 2002).

Fernaldia speciosissima Woodson, Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 26: 300. 1929. TYPE: PANAMA. Chiriquí: Río Chiriquí to Remedios, 11 Jul 1938, R. E. Woodson, Jr., P. H. Allen & R. J. Siebert 1179 (HOLOTYPE: MO!).

REPRESENTATIVE SPECIMENS: COSTA RICA. San José: Acosta, Fila Aguabuena, Río Tiquires, on road to Zoncuano, 11 Jul 1999, J. F. Morales 7131 (CR, INB, MO, K).

GUATEMALA. Petén: San Padero, km 150 of Cadenas Road, in low forest on rocky hill, 12 Aug 1967, E. Contreras 7008 (LL); Izabal, Puerto Mendez, in high forest on top of rocky hill, 8 Aug 1966, E. Contreras 5925 (LL).

PANAMA. Panamá: SE side of Madden Lake, near Puente Natural, 1 Jan 1975, M. Nee & B. Hansen 14056 (MO).

LITERATURE CITED

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MORALES, F. 2002. Studies in neotropical Apocynaceae II: A review of the genus *Fernaldia*. *Rhodora* 104: 186–200.
WILLIAMS, J. K. 1999. A phylogenetic and taxonomic study of the Apocynaceae subfamily Apocynoideae of Mexico with synopsis of subfamily Plumerioideae. Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. Texas, Austin, TX.



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