FIRST REPORT OF THE GENUS *BURMEISTERA* (CAMPANULACEAE) FROM HONDURAS

Burmeistera Triana (Campanulaceae: Lobelioideae) is a genus of 96 species endemic to the Neotropics (Lammers 1998); it was last monographed by Wimmer (1943). The genus is closely related to two other Neotropical endemics, *Centropogon* C. Presl and *Siphocampylus* Pohl (Pepper et al. 1997; Lammers 1998). All are large robust plants (herbaceous or suffruticose perennials, shrubs, subshrubs, or lianas) with large flowers (corollas averaging 30–60 mm long or more) borne singly in the axils of the upper leaves or aggregated into terminal bracteate or foliose (sometimes corymbiform) racemes; the tube of the corolla is neither fenestrate nor cleft dorsally and if the lobes are dimorphic, it is the two dorsal ones that are the larger. *Burmeistera* is distinguished from its allies by its combination of usually ebracteolate pedicels, green or yellow corolla often suffused with maroon or purple, large falcate or reflexed dorsal corolla lobes, the wide open orifice of the anther tube, baccate often inflated fruit, and oblong to fusiform seeds much longer than broad.

Most of the species of *Burmeistera* are found in montane areas from Costa Rica to Ecuador. At the southern limits of this range, two Ecuadorean species extend south into Peru (Stein 1987). At the northern end, a single species is known to occur north of Costa Rica: *Burmeistera virescens* (Benth.) Benth. & Hook. ex Hemsl. It has been reported (McVaugh 1943; Wimmer 1943; Nash 1976) only from Guatemala, where it occurs in the departments of Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, Huehuetenango, Quezaltenango, San Marcos, and Suchitepéquez. This is a disjunction from its congeners of nearly 700 km. That gap has been narrowed, however, by the discovery of this same species in central Honduras. This is the first report of any member of *Burmeistera* from that nation.

Voucher specimen: **HONDURAS. Depto. Olancho:** Parque Nacional la Muralla, trail above Visitors' Center, ca. 14 km above La Union, 15°05'N 86°40'W, in dense high primary *Quercus* forest, 1400 m, 27 Oct 1996, *P.J.M. Maas & H. Maas 8441* (U).

The new locality in Honduras is approximately 350 km east of the nearest conspecific populations in Guatemala. The *Quercus*-dominated primary forest there was quite rich in epiphytes, including *Pleurothallis tuerckheimii* Schlecht. (Orchidaceae), *Columnea rubrecaulis* Standl. (Gesneriaceae), and *Peperomia hoffmannii* C. DC. (Piperaceae). Understory shrubs included *Besleria solanoides* Kunth (Gesneriaceae), *Monnina ferreyrae* Taylor (Polygalaceae), *Tournefortia* sp. (Boraginaceae), scandent *Sphyrospermum majus* Griseb. (Ericaceae), and a treelet species of *Clethra* (Clethraceae). Species found in the herbaceous layer

were *Psilochilus macrophyllus* (Lindl.) Ames (Orchidaceae), *Renealmia mexicana* Klotzsch ex Peterson (Zingiberaceae), *Smilacina* sp. (Asparagaceae), *Spigelia* sp. (Spigeliaceae), the saprophyte *Gymnosiphon suaveolens* (Karst.) Urb. (Burmanniaceae), and the root-parasite *Monotropa uniflora* L. (Monotropaceae). Adjacent patches of secondary forest contained small trees of *Saurauia veraguensis* Seem. (Actinidiaceae), shrubs of *Triumfetta speciosa* Seem. (Tiliaceae), and the herbs *Canna tuerckheimii* Kraenzl. (Cannaceae) and *Hydrocotyle mexicana* Cham. & Schlecht. (Apiaceae).

—*Thomas G. Lammers, Department of Botany, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605-2496, U.S.A.; and P.J.M. Maas, Department of Plant Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Herbarium Division, Willem C. van Unnikgebouw, Heidelberglaan 2, 3584 CS Utrecht, Netherlands.*

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