

A NEW ROBINSONELLA (MALVACEAE) FROM HONDURAS

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On a trip to some caves with petroglyphs, a biology student, in an expedition of the Sociedad Hondureña de Exploraciones e Investigaciones, collected a plant at a roadside, and brought it back as part of the collection that he had to submit in his second course of systematic botany of the Biology Department at the National University of Honduras. Consulting Fryxell (1973), it seemed that the plant didn't fit any of the species treated by him. No plants were found either at the Herbarium of the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana (EAP) that would match the specimen in question. The plant seemed to be an undescribed taxon:

Robinsonella erasmi-sosae C. Nelson, sp. nov.

Arbor 5 m. Pedicelli et calyces dense stellato-puberuli. Petala alba, caerulea vel alba-caerulea, praeter unguem stellato-ciliatum glabra. Columna staminalis quasi ubique dense pubescens.

HOLOTYPUS: HONDURAS: Francisco Morazán: orilla del camino entre caserío La Bodega y cuevas con petroglyphos Las Pintadas, 5 m de la quebrada afluyente del río Sauce, 2-3 Km SE. de Carretera del Sur a la altura del Km 22, pinares y encinos, bosque húmedo subtropical, 1500 m alt. 21 febrero 1982. Erasm Sosa López 155 (UNAH 11390). Isotypi (EAP, MO).

COTYPUS: Type specimen, type locality, 30 abril 1982. Erasm Sosa López 170 (UNAH 11391). Isocotypi: (EAP, MO).

Tree about 5 m tall. Leaves up to 13.2 cm long, and up to 6.4 cm wide, broadly ovate, cordate at base,

long acuminate at apex, at first denticulate then dentate, 7-pedatinerved; both surfaces at first densely stellate-puberulent with sessile hairs ca. 0.1-0.2 mm diam., soon glabrate with few sessile stellate hairs ca. 0.1 mm scattered throughout the surfaces; the nerves glabrous all the way on the upper surface, glabrous on the lower surface except for the pilosity at the base; petioles glabrous or sparsely stellate-puberulent with sessile hairs ca. 0.1 mm diam.; stipules filiform, caducous, stellate-puberulous, up to 6.5 mm long. Inflorescence short racemose with flowers binately disposed with short rachises giving the impression of being fasciculate, the rachises up to 6 mm long; pedicels 12-15 mm long, articulated towards the middle, densely stellate-puberulent; calyces 6-7 mm long, densely stellate puberulent, the lobes up to 4 mm long and up to 3 mm wide, slightly gibbous at base; petals 13-15 mm long, 7-10 mm wide, white or blue-white in the same inflorescence, when dry the petals blue, white or blue-white in the same inflorescence, obtriangular, asymmetric at apex, glabrous except for the stellate-ciliate claw; staminal column 5-7 mm long, stellate-puberulent almost to the apex; stamens ca. 30-40, filaments ca. 1-2 mm long. Styles ca. 10, glabrous, stigmata capitate. Fruits and seeds not seen.

The cotype is a sterile specimen of the same tree since, when in bloom, it's almost completely defoliated.

This species gives the impression of being a hybrid between Robinsonella pilosissima Fryxell and R. densiflora Fryxell. It differs from R. pilosissima by its pedicels and calyces with under-

lying stellate puberulence, and from *R. densiflora* by its pubescent staminal column, and the coloration and size of the petals.

This plant is extremely rare, and only one tree was found in the whole region; besides, the tree was badly damaged by machete cuts at the base of the trunk, and it might disappear from the type locality very soon.

This species is dedicated to Erasmo Sosa, the biology student at the National University of Honduras, a member of the Sociedad Hondureña de Exploraciones e Investigaciones in one of whose expeditions he collected the holotype.

RESUMEN

Se publica la especie nueva *Robinsonella erasmii-sosae* Nelson. Esta especie parece ser un híbrido entre *Robinsonella pilosissima* Fryxell y *R. densiflora* Fryxell. Se diferencia de *R. pilosissima* por sus pedicelos y cálices con pelos esteliiformes, y de *R. densiflora* por su columna estaminal pubescente, y por la coloración y tamaño de los pétalos.

LITERATURE CITED

Fryxell, Paul A. A revision of *Robinsonella* Rose & E. G. Baker (Malvaceae). *Gentes Herbarum* 11(1):1-26. 1973.



Nelson, Cirilo H . 1982. "A new Robinsonella (Malvaceae) from Honduras." *Phytologia* 51(6), 381–383.

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