

A NEW COCCOLOBA (POLYGONACEAE) FROM COSTA RICA

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Coccoloba liportizii Gómez-Laurito & Zamora sp. nova

Ex affinitate C. tenuifolia L., a qua tamen valde recedit ocreae ad apicem bicomosae, petioli et costa glabrae, folia apicem acuminata, rachis glabris, fructus minusculus. Fig. 1.

Arbor 6-12 m alta, usque 50 cm diametro ad pectore. Internodio folioso 2-6 cm longo, 2-3 mm crasso, glabro, longistrorsum striate, cinescens. Ocreae 3.5-6 mm longae, ferruginae, juvenis aliquando pubescens, demum glabris, bifidae, ad apicem bicomosae. Folia 2-plures ad nodos; petioli 3-4 mm longi. 1 mm crassi, supra canaliculati, glabri, intra ocreis genitis; lamina lanceolata, 4-6 cm longa, 2-3.2 cm lata, apice acuminata, cuneata basae, supra viridia, infra flavovirens, utrinque glaberrima, nervis secundaris 4 regulariter arquatis, infra leviter elevatis porphyreis, ceteri nervis reticulatis, margine revolutis. Inflorescencia spicata, solitaria vel jugate, 6-12 cm longa, rachis circa 1 mm crassis, glabris. Flores 6-partitae, solitariae, laxe dispositae, 3 mm longae; stamina 8; stylus trifidus, stigmatae capitatae exsertae; pedicellis circa 1 mm longis; bracteolae hyaline-membranaceae 0.8-1 mm longae. Fructus globosus, mamilliformis 10 x 0.8 mm, perianthia ad apicem libera, maturitatis rubescens, in sicco longitudinaliter estriate. Achaenia trigona, turgida, laevigata, fusca.

Nomen Rodolfus "Lipo" Ortizii homo obesus semper affabilis sylvis ramonensis defensoris cordialiter dicamur.

Holotypus : Reserva Forestal de San Ramón, ca. Colonia Palmaruña, Alajuela; elev. : 1050-1500 m , 84° 35' W - 10° 10' N. 23-III-1986. Leg. J. Gómez-L., N. Zamora, F. Almeda & B. Anderson 11135, CR. Isotypus F, MO. Add. collection : R. Ortiz 187, ex eadem loco.

Coccoloba liportizii is closely related to Coccoloba tenuifolia L. from Jamaica, Cuba and Bahama, but differs from it in having stipules (ocreae) bearing 2 tufts of hairs, petioles and midrib quite glabrous, leaves acuminate, rachis glabrous and fruits bigger. Another unusual feature of this species is its restriction to premontane rain forest formations on the Caribbean slope. It is the first Coccoloba to have been found growing wild above 1000 meters elevation in Costa Rica. (Cf. Burger in Fieldiana, Bot. n. s. 13 : 112. 1983).



Coccoloba liportizii Gómez-L. & Zamora. a. Branch, b. Inflorescence, c. Fruit.



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