A New Combination in *Stuckenia* (Potamogetonaceae) of South America

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ABSTRACT. In this work, we propose the new combination *Stuckenia punensis* (Galán de Mera) Galán de Mera for use in the Peruvian flora. This species is coincident with *S. filiformis* in its distribution in the high Andes of Peru. *Stuckenia punensis* differs from *S. filiformis* in its wider, scabrous leaves and globose achenes.

On account of the recent revision of the worldwide genus *Potamogeton* L. (Wiegleb & Kaplan, 1998), we elucidate some points regarding the family Potamogetonaceae in South America.


Although Wiegleb and Kaplan (1998) suggested that *Potamogeton punense* and *P. filiformis* C. H. Persoon [*Stuckenia filiformis* (C. H. Persoon) C. Börner] are synonymous, the two species are very different in their morphological and ecological characteristics (see Table 1). *Stuckenia punensis* presents much wider leaves, with 3 to 5 nerves, thickened and scabrous. The leaves of *S. filiformis* are narrower, with only 1 nerve, and smooth. The stipules of *S. punensis* are longer (5–8 cm) than those of *S. filiformis* (1–3 cm). The achenes also differentiate the two species: in *S. punensis* they are globose and in *S. filiformis* they are gibbous. Both species are located between 3000 and 4000 m above sea level, but their ecological preferences are different; whereas *S. punensis* lives in flowing rivers, *S. filiformis* forms dense communities in high calm lagoons. Finally, *S. punensis* is a Peruvian endemic (Galán de Mera, 1991), while *S. filiformis* is widely distributed throughout the world (western, central and northern Asia, North and South America) (Wiegleb & Kaplan, 1998).

Additional specimens of *Stuckenia punensis*. PERU.
Cuzco: Calca, bottom of rio Urubamba Valley at km 54, on road to Urubamba, ca. 4 km NW from Calca (8 km SE of Yucay), 2900 m, 26 Dec. 1962, H. H. & C. M. litis, C. Vargas 846 (US, USM). Junín: Tarma, bottom of rio Quishuaranccha, below Hacienda Casa Blanca (ca. 18 km (air) SSE of Tarma), 3600 m, 28 Nov. 1962, H. H. & C. M. Itlis, D. & V. Ugent 140 (USM); Yauli, aquatics from icy-cold, shallow, swift rio Mantaro, in limestone valley with treeless tussock, grassland along highway to Junín, ca. 8–10 km NW of La Oroya, ca. 3000 m, 4 Dec. 1962, Hugh H. & Carolyn Itlis, Donald & Vivian Ugent s.n. (US, USM); cerca de Pachaca, entre La Oroya y Junín, Ria-chuelo, 3000-3900 m, 10 Jan. 1949, Ramón Ferreyra 5259 (US).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th><em>S. punensis</em></th>
<th><em>S. filiformis</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leaf width (mm)</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>0.2-0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of leaf nerves</td>
<td>3 to 5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texture</td>
<td>scabrous</td>
<td>smooth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipules (cm)</td>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit morphology</td>
<td>globose</td>
<td>gibbous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>flowing rivers</td>
<td>lagoons of calm waters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chorology</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>W, C and N Asia, North and South America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. A comparison of *Stuckenia punensis* and *S. filiformis*.
Acknowledgments. This work was supported by the 12/98 USP project of San Pablo University and by a grant from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional. We thank L. Hamalainen for her linguistic assistance.

Literature Cited


