

Notes on *Lellingeria oreophila* (Grammitidaceae), a Poorly Known Species from Colombia

PAULO H. LABIAK¹

University of São Paulo, Institute of Systematic Botany,
São Paulo—SP, Brazil

Abstract.—*Lellingeria oreophila* (Maxon) A.R.Sm. & R.C.Moran, a poorly known species from Colombia, is described, illustrated, and discussed on the basis of a new find of this collection from Northern Andes in Colombia.

During a study of Neotropical Grammitidaceae, I found a herbarium specimen of *Lellingeria oreophila* (Maxon) A.R.Sm. & R.C.Moran, a species previously known only from the type collection in Colombia. Since the original description of this species by Maxon (1947), it has been mentioned in the literature only once, by Smith and Moran (1991), when they made the combination for it in *Lellingeria*. To aid future monographers, I discuss and illustrate this poorly known species and elaborate the original description of it by Maxon.

Lellingeria oreophila (Maxon) A. R. Sm. & R. C. Moran, Amer. Fern J. 81: 85. 1991. *Polypodium oreophilum* Maxon, Contr. Gray Herb. 165: 72. 1947. TYPE: COLOMBIA. Santander: Cerro Armas, 6° 21' N, 73° 50' W, 1200–1500 m, 26 July 1936, *Haught 1959* (HOLOTYPE US; ISOTYPE K). Fig. 1. A–F

Stems short-creeping, c. 0.5 cm thick, scaly, the scales 0.2–0.3 cm long, castaneous, linear-lanceolate, with hyaline, ciliate margins. Fronds 10–23 × 2–3 cm, erect; stipes 2–4 × 0.04 cm, dark brown, densely covered with simple, castaneous hairs ca. 0.1 mm long; laminae pinnatisect, lanceolate to slightly elliptic, chartaceous, gradually tapering to the base and to the apex; rachises sclerenchymatous, black; segments 1–2 × 0.15–0.2 cm, linear-deltate, slightly asymmetrical at the base, oblique to the costa, the margins flat, entire, the apex obtuse to slightly acute; indument of small, appressed, castaneous, unbranched hairs (up to 1 mm) on the rachises and abaxial laminar tissue; sinuses narrower than the width of the segments; veins free, 1-furcate, ending submarginally, inconspicuous. Sori round, arising at the vein apex, superficial or slightly sunken, glabrous. Sporangia non setose.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED.—Colombia. Antioquia: Guatapé, Vereda Santa Rita, finca Montepinar, 06° 15'N, 75° 10'W, 1850 m, 06 Feb 1990, *Contreras & Echeverri 159* (NY).

Lellingeria oreophila is apparently restricted to the northern region of the Andes, between 1200 and 1850 meters in elevation, where it occurs as an

¹ Current Address: Caixa Postal 1644, 80011–970, Curitiba, PR, Brasil.

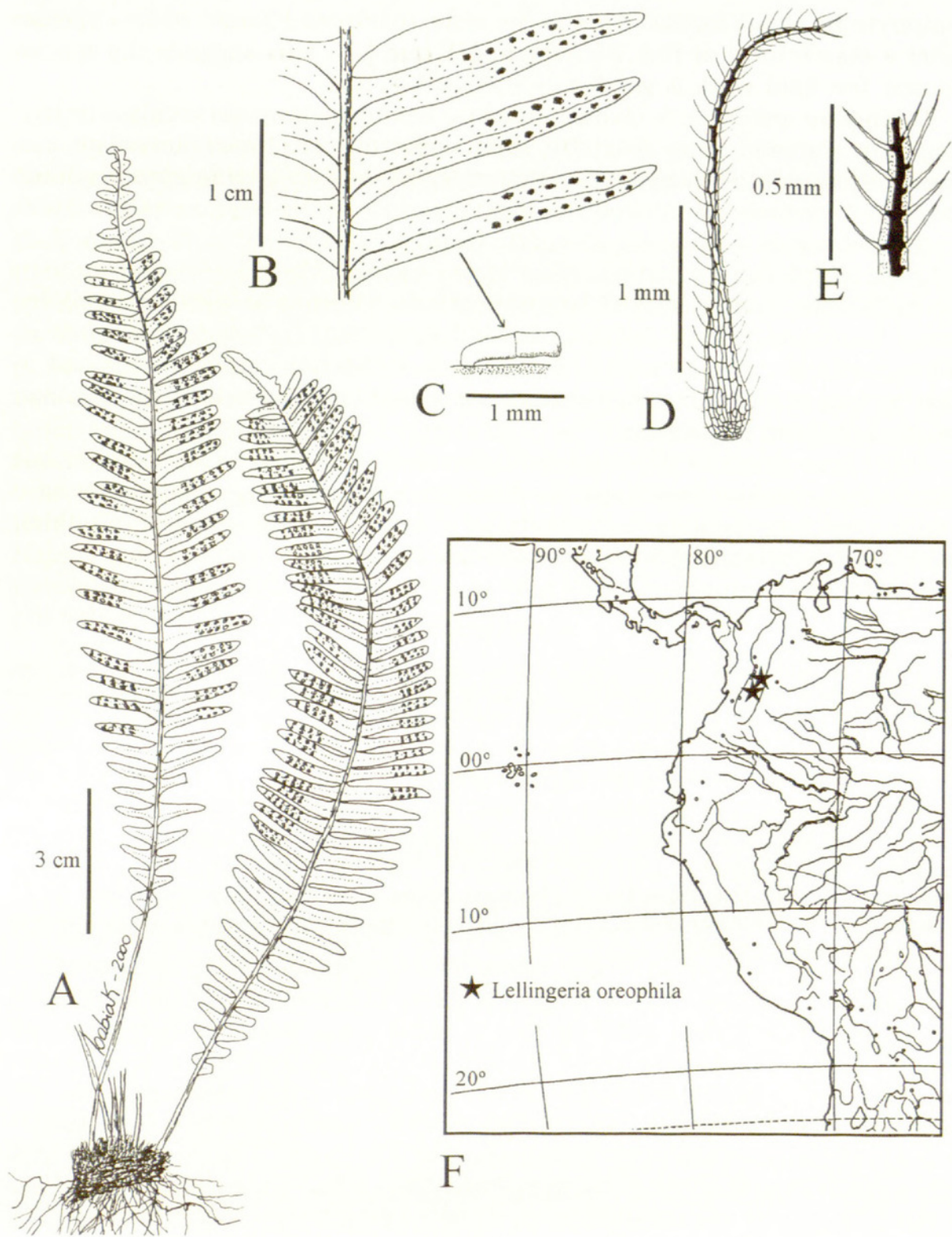


FIG. 1. A–F. *Lellingeria oreophila* (Contreras & Echeverri 159). A. Habit. B. Blade detail. C. Lamina hair detail. D. Stem scale. E. Stem scale detail. F. Geographic distribution.

epiphyte in cloud forests. This is the only specimen I found of this species after a search for it at BM, BR, GH, K, NY and US. This suggests the species is rare, but field work is needed to substantiate this.

Lellingeria oreophila is characterized by having glabrescent rachises or having only scattered hairs abaxially, stem scales that are linear-lanceolate, castaneous centrally with hyaline, ciliate margins, and by having appressed, unbranched, castaneous hairs on the abaxial surface of the laminae and rachises.

It is related to *Lellingeria apiculata* (Kunze ex Klotzsch) A. R. Sm. & R. C. Moran, which can be distinguished by its rachises densely covered by hairs on both sides, and its abaxial laminar surfaces glabrous or with scattered, hyaline, branched hairs, these acicular and spreading. *Lellingeria oreophila* although similar to *L. hirsuta* A. R. Sm. & R. C. Moran, can be recognized by having castaneous, unbranched hairs on the abaxial surface of the laminae; while *L. hirsuta* is glabrous.

Lellingeria stuebelii (Hieron.) A. R. Sm. & R. C. Moran is also similar but, according to Maxon (1947), can be distinguished by having conspicuous hairs on the rachises, margins, and abaxial laminar tissue, stems only 1 mm thick, and by the small and few ciliate scales on the stems.

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