

MICONIA PYRAMIDALIS (MELASTOMATACEAE: MICONIEAE):
REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME FROM JAMAICA

Walter S. Judd, Gretchen M. Ionta

Department of Biology, 220 Bartram Hall
P.O. Box 118525, University of Florida
Gainesville, Florida 32611, U.S.A.
wjudd@botany.ufl.edu; gionta@ufl.edu

Keron C. St. E. Campbell

The Institute of Jamaica
Natural History Museum of Jamaica
10-16 East Street, Kingston, JAMAICA
kcampbell@nhmj-ioj.org.jm

ABSTRACT

Miconia pyramidalis is reported for the first time for the flora of Jamaica. The species is largely restricted to the Greater Antilles and is much less common in Jamaica than the closely related and more broadly distributed *M. laevigata*.

RESUMEN

Se reporta por primera vez *Miconia pyramidalis* para la flora de Jamaica. Esta especie se encuentra restringida principalmente a las Antillas Mayores y es menos común en Jamaica que *M. laevigata*, una especie cercanamente relacionada a *M. pyramidalis* y ampliamente distribuida.

Miconia pyramidalis (Desr.) DC. is reported for the first time from Jamaica, where it occurs in the Blue Mountains (St. Andrew, St. Thomas and Portland Parishes) in disturbed moist montane forests, dry southern-slope forests, and thickets from 450–1250 m. The species is also known from Cuba, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico, so its occurrence in Jamaica is not unexpected. It is much less common in Jamaica than the closely related and well-collected *M. laevigata* with which it is often confused. The latter is widely distributed in the Neotropics, occurring in Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Antilles. *Miconia pyramidalis*, in contrast, is largely restricted to the Greater Antilles, although it is of interest that the type (see Howard 1989) was collected in Guadeloupe (in the Lesser Antilles).

Miconia pyramidalis has been included within the circumscription of *M. laevigata* in most floristic treatments (e.g., Cogniaux 1891; Fawcett & Rendle 1926; León & Alain 1957; Liogier 1995, 2000; Proctor 1972). However, *M. pyramidalis* is readily distinguished from *M. laevigata* based on the evidence presented by Judd and Kabat (2005), thus we consider them to be specifically distinct. The two species were also distinguished by Moscoso (1943). *Miconia pyramidalis* is most easily differentiated from *M. laevigata* by its inflorescence architecture. In *M. pyramidalis* the inflorescences are more or less pyramidal, with the lower secondary branches elongated and possessing numerous internodes. These branches are frequently more or less indeterminate and culminate in a dense cluster of flower buds, which often abort. The ultimate inflorescence branches frequently bear 3-flowered units. In contrast, in *M. laevigata*, secondary inflorescence branches mostly consist of only one or two internodes, i.e., the branch meristem almost immediately produces a terminal flower. However, the basal branch-pair of an inflorescence may have more numerous internodes, repeating the pattern of the primary axis. Thus, the production of additional flowers results almost entirely from the development of one or more pairs of scorpioid-secund floral clusters, which develop through one-sided sympodial branching (see Fig. 1 in Judd & Kabat 2005). In *M. pyramidalis* the adaxial leaf surface dries much darker than the abaxial leaf surface (the adaxial leaf surface of *M. laevigata* dries only slightly darker), and the fruits are distinctly larger (to ca. 6 mm, vs. to ca. 4 mm in *M. laevigata*; pers. obs.). See Judd and Kabat (2005) for additional differentiating morphological characters.

The recognition of *Miconia pyramidalis* in Jamaica increases the number of species of *Miconia* (as traditionally circumscribed) documented for the island to 25 (see Proctor 1972).

The specimens cited below comprise our recent collections in Jamaica and the results of a survey of specimens at the Institute of Jamaica and in the herbarium of the University of the West Indies, Mona. In addition

to the localities cited below, we observed *Miconia pyramidalis* growing just below Abbey Green (St. Thomas Parish), at ca. 1200 m. In Jamaica, *Miconia pyramidalis* was observed growing with or in close proximity to the following species of Melastomataceae: *Blakea trinerva* L., *Clidemia crossosepala* Griseb., *C. erythropogon* DC., *C. hirta* (L.) D. Don, *C. umbellata* (Mill.) Judd & Skean, *Mecranium virgatum* (Sw.) Triana, *Miconia albicans* (Sw.) Triana, *M. impetiolaris* (Sw.) DC., *M. laevigata* (L.) DC., *M. prasina* (Sw.) DC., *M. quadrangularis* (Sw.) Naud., *M. theaezans* (Bonpl.) Cogn., and *Ossaea hirsuta* (Sw.) Triana.

Voucher specimens: **JAMAICA. Portland Parish:** section to Greenhills, 3300 ft, 31 Mar 1963, *Adams 12,373* (UCWI); Blue Mountains, Wakefield (town ca. 1 mi S of Spring Hill on rd. to Hardwar Gap), 450 m, 24 May 1987, *Judd 5466* (FLAS, IJ); ridge SW of Haycock Mt., above Balcarres, 2000–2750 ft, 11 Jun 1953, *Proctor 8064* (IJ). **St. Andrew Parish:** Blue Mountains, Clydesdale, 3500 ft, 24–31 Aug 1943, *Barry s.n.* (IJ). **St. Thomas Parish:** along trail between Farm Hill and Abbey Green, 4000 ft, 29 Jul 1946, *Barry s.n.* (IJ); Blue Mountains, W of Whitfield Hall, on road to Penlyne Castle, lat. N18°02'43.2" and long. W76°37'35.4," 1195 m (by GPS), 1175 m (altimeter), 18 Jan 2011, *Judd 8322* (FLAS, IJ, NY); vicinity of Whitfield Hall, ca. 4100 ft, 2 Jun 1954, *Proctor 8731* (FLAS, IJ).

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