COMMENTS ON SPECIES NOMENCLATURE AND TAXONOMY IN *CLUSIA* SECTION *OEDEMATOPUS* (CLUSIACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

While *Oedematopus divaricatus* has already been transferred to *Clusia* using the available synonym *C. myrsinites*, here we further explain this synonymy and discuss the similarities of this taxon to related species within *Clusia* in sect. *Oedomatopus*.

RESUMEN

Si bien *Oedematopus divaricatus* fue transferido a *Clusia* usando el sinónimo *C. myrsinites*, en este trabajo explicamos esta sinonimia y discutimos la relación de este taxon con especies similares en *Clusia* sect. *Oedematopus*.

Key Words: *Clusia*, *Oedematopus*, synonym, nomenclature, taxonomy

Modern phylogenetic analyses of morphological and molecular evidence have suggested that *Oedematopus* represent a clade nested within the genus *Clusia* (Gustafsson & Bittrich 2003; Gustafsson et al. 2007). Most of the necessary combinations to transfer species of *Oedematopus* to *Clusia* [in sect. *Oedematopus* (Planch. & Triana) Pipoly] have been made by Pipoly (1997) and Pipoly & Cogollo (1998). However, these authors inadvertently used the basionym *Oedematopus divaricatus* Cuatrec. to make the illegitimate combination *C. divaricata* (Cuatrec.) Pipoly, which is a later homonym because *C. divaricata* Maguire (1978) was previously published. Hammel (2015) transferred *O. divaricatus* as a synonym under *C. myrsinites* Ewan (1951), which should now be considered the legitimate name for this taxon in *Clusia*.

Oedematopus divaricatus Cuatrec. was described based on material collected in lowland savannas in Central Colombia by Cuatrecasas (1949), who designated the specimen *J. Cuatrecasas 7681* (F barcode 0054372F) as the holotype. Interestingly, *C. myrsinites* Ewan was described based on plant material from the same gathering of Cuatrecasas but using a different duplicate as holotype (*J. Cuatrecasas 7681* US barcode 00114277).

Clusia myrsinites is morphologically similar to *C. huberi* Pipoly, but *C. myrsinites* can be distinguished by having young branches with smooth epidermis (vs. exfoliating epidermis), subcoriaceous leaves (vs. strongly coriaceous), inflorescence with lateral branches as long as central branch (vs. congested lateral branches sometimes reduced to a single flower), and yellowish petals (vs. pinkish). In addition, *C. myrsinites* occurs at 200–400 m in savannas whereas *C. huberi* grows on tepuis at 1000 m.

Clusia sect. *Oedematopus* includes species with two patterns in androecium morphology: slightly recurved anthers longer than the filaments; and erect anthers shorter than filaments. In the latter group, the number of stamens range from 8 to 30. Species with eight stamens have very homogeneous floral morphology and are restricted to the Amazonian basin. These species can be separated by the following key.

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Key to species of *Clusia* sect. *Oedematopus* with eight stamens in staminate flowers.

1. Petals pinkish to reddish.
   2. Terrestrial shrub or tree.
      3. Secondary veins and secretory ducts prominent on both lamina surfaces, lower inflorescence bracts broadly ovate with subacute apices; staminodes in pistillate flowers 8 _____ **C. huberi**
      3. Secondary veins and secretory ducts visible but not prominent on lamina surfaces, lower inflorescence bracts lanceolate with acute apices; staminodes in pistillate flowers 4 _____ **C. hylaeae**

2. Hemiepiphytic shrub or tree.
4. Leaves subcoriaceous, elliptic, ocasionally asymmetrical, with acute apices (rarely obtuse) **C. glauca**
4. Leaves strongly coriaceous, oblanceolate, oblong or narrow-spathulate, with rounded apices **C. ucamira**
1. Petals cream to yellow.
5. Hemiepiphytic shrub or tree **C. octandra**
5. Terrestrial shrub or tree.
6. Young branches with exfoliating epidermis (peeling in rings) **C. obovata**
6. Young branches with smooth epidermis **C. myrsinites**

Clusia myrsinites Ewan, Nat. Hist. Misc. (Chicago Acad. Sci.) 88:5. 1951. TYPE: COLOMBIA: [Guaviare] San José del Guaviare, Río Guaviare, 270 m, 12 Nov 1939 (♂), *J. Cuatrecasas 7681* (HOLOTYPE: US [00114277!]; ISOTYPES: COL [000002784!], NY [00039180!, 00039181!]).

Oedematopus divaricatus Cuatrec., Anales Inst. Biol. Univ. Nac. México 20:108. 1949.
Clusia divaricata (Cuatrec.) Pipoly, Sida 18:408. 1998. *nom. illeg. non Clusia divaricata* Maguire, Phytologia 39(2):65–67. 1978.

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