

A NEW SPECIES OF *CALYPTTRANTHES* (MYRTACEAE) FROM PERU

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Abstract. A new species of Myrtaceae from lowland forests of Peru is described and illustrated. *Calypttranthes mcvaughii* is characterized by the subsessile, ovate to lanceolate leaves, obtuse to subcordate at base and by the spiciform panicles.

Resumen. Se describe y se ilustra una especie nueva de Myrtaceae proveniente de bosques húmedos de las tierras bajas del Perú. *Calypttranthes mcvaughii* se caracteriza por las hojas subsésiles, ovadas a lanceoladas, obtusas a subcordadas en la base y por las panículas espiciformes.

Keywords: *Calypttranthes*, Myrtaceae, Peru

Calypttranthes Sw. is a genus of Myrtaceae traditionally included in the subtribe Myrciinae O. Berg (Berg, 1855); probably more than 200 species occur in the tropical and subtropical regions of America, from southeastern United States (Florida) to Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. The species of *Calypttranthes* are trees or shrubs usually characterized by: stems branching predominantly bifurcate, the branchlets often bicarinate to 2-winged; flowers in paired panicles, the calyx closed in bud, calyptiform and circumsissile, the calyptra deciduous; petals absent or inconspicuous; ovary 2-locular, with two ovules per locule; fruits globose to oblate, dark purple when mature, crowned by a circular scar; seeds 1 or 2; embryo myrcioid, with cotyledons leafy and folded, the radicle well developed, equaling cotyledons in length.

Calypttranthes is represented in Peru by ca. 20 to 25 species (McVaugh, 1958; Holst, 1993; Tropicos 2016). In this contribution, a new species of *Calypttranthes* from lowland forests of Tocache, San Martín, is described and illustrated.

***Calypttranthes mcvaughii* M. L. Kawas. & D. Santam., sp. nov.** TYPE: PERU. San Martín: Tocache Province, Tocache District (Mariscal Cáceres, Tocache Nuevo on label), trail to Santa Rosa, right margin of Río Mishollo, 350–370 m, 5 August 1973 (fl), J. Schunke Vigo 6706 (Holotype: MICH; Isotypes: F, MO). Fig. 1.

Differs from other species of *Calypttranthes* by the combination of the following characters: subsessile, ovate to lanceolate leaves, obtuse to subcordate at base and flowers in spiciform panicles.

Shrubs 1.5–5 m high, the trichomes on leaves, inflorescences and flowers dibrachiate, yellowish to yellowish-brown; branchlets terete to compressed in cross section. Leaf blades subsessile, ovate to lanceolate, subcoriaceous, (14–) 16–24.5 × (6–) 7–9 cm, the upper surface glabrous, drying olive-green, the lower surface

puberulous, yellowish-green; glands punctiform, indistinct on both surfaces or impressed above; midvein impressed above, convex below; lateral veins 13–17 pairs, slightly impressed above, salient below; marginal veins 2, the innermost arched, 5–10 mm from blade margin, similar to the lateral veins in prominence; apex abruptly acuminate, the acumen to ca. 5 mm long; base obtuse to subcordate; petioles to 5 mm long, channeled, glabrous, dark. Inflorescences subterminal, of paired spiciform, narrow panicles, 13–17 cm long, puberulous, the lower branches to 2 cm long; bracts and bracteoles not seen, early deciduous. Flower buds closed, obovoid, 3–4 mm long, gland-dotted, sessile; hypanthium prolonged ca. 2 mm beyond the ovary, appressed-pubescent to puberulous, somewhat furfuraceous at the base; calyx calyptiform, obtuse to minutely apiculate, puberulous to glabrous, deciduous; petals not seen; disk ca. 2 mm diam., glabrous; stamens numerous, the filaments ca. 5–7 mm long, the anthers ca. 0.5 mm long; style ca. 1 cm long, the stigma punctiform; ovary 2-locular, with 2 ovules per locule. Fruit (immature, only one seen) globose, reddish, crowned by a circular scar, ca. 8 mm diam., glabrous, gland-dotted; seed coat membranous; embryo myrcioid, the cotyledons leafy and folded, the radicle elongate, equaling the cotyledons in length.

Calypttranthes mcvaughii is characterized by the subsessile (petioles to 5 mm long), ovate to lanceolate leaves, 14–24.5 cm long, that are obtuse to subcordate at base and by the spiciform panicles. Among the Peruvian species, *Calypttranthes mcvaughii* could be misidentified as *C. sessilis* McVaugh or *C. plicata* McVaugh. In these two species, however, the leaves are sessile and cordate at base; in *C. sessilis*, the leaves are ovate, usually smaller (to 19 cm long), and the flower buds are fusiform and larger, 6–7 mm long (vs. obovoid, 3–4 mm long); in *C. plicata*, the leaves are obovate to oblanceolate, larger (30–55 cm long), with 20–25 (vs. 13–17) pairs of lateral veins, and

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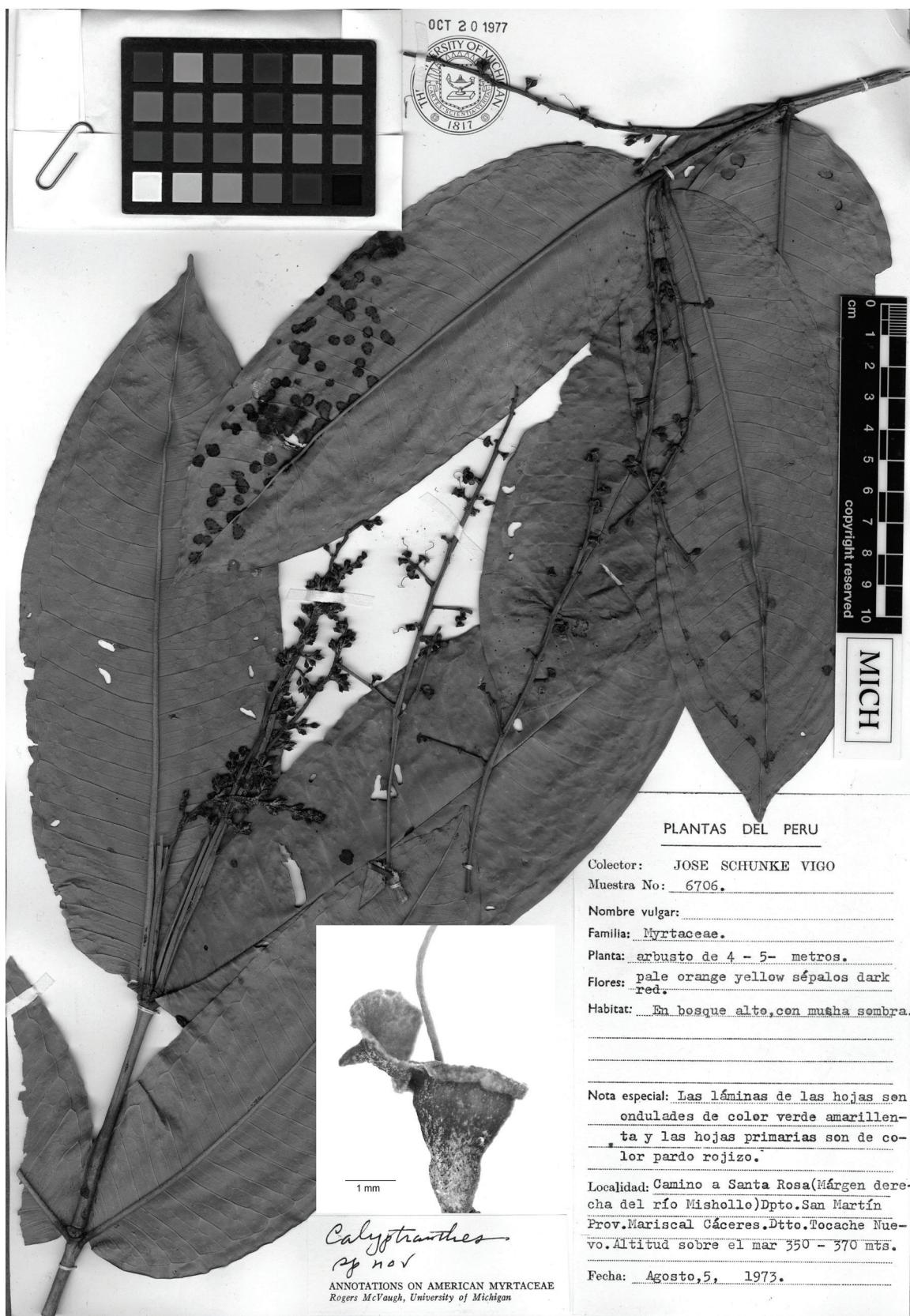


FIGURE 1. *Calyptrotheces mcvaughii* M. L. Kawas. & D. Santam. Photograph of the holotype, Schunke Vigo 6706 (MICH). Inset, flower after anthesis with calyptra attached, from isotype at F.

the inflorescences are shorter (to 7 cm long vs. 13–17 cm long), on leafless nodes (vs. subterminal). *Calyptranthes brevispicata* McVaugh, a species from Peru and Ecuador, is similar to *C. mcvaughii* in the spiciform panicles, but it differs in the petiolate (petioles 5–10 mm long), narrowly elliptic to elliptic leaves, obtuse to cuneate at base.

Eponymy: Named in memory of Dr. Rogers McVaugh (1909–2009), who first recognized this species as new (annotated on specimens at F, MICH, and MO). Dr. McVaugh's outstanding work on Myrtaceae established the contemporary basis for taxonomic studies on the family in the Neotropics.

Additional Specimens Examined: PERU. San Martín: Tocache Prov., Tocache Distr. (Mariscal Cáceres, Tocache

Nuevo on label), Tananta, left margin of Río Huallaga, 5 October 1970 (fl), J. Schunke Vigo 4474 (F, US); Río Canuto, "Curarelandia," property of José Schunke Vigo, near km 23 along road from Tocache Nuevo to Puerto Pizana, ca. 8°06'S, 76°36'W, 475 m, 19 December 1981 (fr), T. Plowman & J. Schunke Vigo 11507 (F).

Distribution and habitat: In lowland forests (350–475 m) in the region of Tocache, San Martín.

Phenology: Collected with flowers in August and October and with fruits in December.

Conservation Status: Known only from three collections made 35 to 45 years ago in the same region; it is evaluated as Vulnerable [VU: B2ab(iii)] according to the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2001).

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