A New Species of Amyris (Rutaceae) from Baja California Sur, Mexico

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Abstract. Field exploration and floristic research have revealed another plant species endemic to the peninsula of Baja California, Mexico. A new shrubby species (Amyris carterae) from the Sierra Guadalupe and Sierra de la Giganta, Baja California Sur, is described here. Distribution, associated vegetation, rarity, affinity to another species in the genus, and a botanical illustration are presented.

Resumen. Trabajo de campo e investigación florística han puesto de manifiesto una especie de planta endémica de la península de Baja California, México. Un arbusto (Amyris carterae) de la Sierra Guadalupe y Sierra de la Giganta, del estado de Baja California Sur se describe aquí como especie nueva para la ciencia. Se presentan la distribución, vegetación asociada, rareza, afinidad con otra especie en el género, así como una ilustración del nuevo taxón.

Key words: Amyris, Baja California Sur, Mexico, Rutaceae.

Lower California is comprised of two Mexican states (Baja California and Baja California Sur) that are politically divided at the 28th parallel. These states compose the Baja California peninsula and its adjacent islands, which are located in both the Gulf of California (Sea of Cortés) and the Pacific Ocean. This region supports a wealth of species. Wiggins (1980) estimated that a total of 2958 taxa, of which 686 are endemic, occur in Lower California, but recent discoveries and a more extensive overview of the literature suggests that the flora probably consists of more than 4000 plant taxa with a rate of endemism around 30% (Rehman, 2001).

The Rutaceae are represented in Lower California by eight native species in six genera (Amyris P. Browne, Crocodiolum Hooker f., Esenbeckia HBK., Ptelea L., Thamnosma Torrey & Frémont, and Zan- thoxylum L.). At least four of these species (the new species Amyris carterae, as well as Thamnosma trifoliata L. M. Johnston, Zanthoxylum arborescens Rose, and Z. fagara (L.) Sargent) are rare or restricted in their distribution on the peninsula. The genus Amyris has approximately 40 species distributed from Florida, Texas, and the Antilles, south to Venezuela and Peru (Gereau, 1991). At present, only this species of Amyris is known to occur on the peninsula of Baja California; the members of the genus with the closest geographical proximity is A. balsamifera L., in southern Sonora and Sinaloa in Mexico. A collection (M. Domínguez 233, SD) made in the Sierra de la Laguna of the Cape Region may represent another species of this genus, but more research and better collections are needed to substantiate this occurrence. The new shrubby species described here adds to the impressive diversity and endemism of the flora of Lower California.

Amyris carterae J. Rehman & F. Chiang, sp. nov. Type: Mexico. Baja California Sur: Sierra Guadalupe, W of Mulegé, Guadalupe Canyon ca. 14 mi. SW of San José de Magdalena, 500 m, 26°56'54"N, 112°22'15"W, 25 Sep. 1998, J. P. Rehman 5634 & J. L. Zufiaga (holotype, SD 142830; isotypes, BCMEX, HCIB, MEXU, MO, RSA). Figure 1.

A. madrensis similis, sed differt foliolis supra non nitrīdis, venis lateralibus non prominenti elevatis, inflorescencia constanter pubescenti, et crescit in solo volcanico.

Rounded to spreading shrub, to 7 m tall, most branches ascending to erect, the stems densely pubescent with spreading hairs, canescent especially on newer growth. Leaves opposite to subopposite, 4-ranked, odd-pinnately compound; petioles gray, tomentose, 5–11 mm long; lateral petiololes 1–3 mm long, the terminal one 2–5 mm long; leaflets 3 to 9, 7–21 mm long, 5–20 mm wide, the leaflet

Figure 1. *Amyris carterae* J. Rebman & F. Chiang. —a. Stem segment with leaves, inflorescence, and variable leaflets, scale bar = 1 cm. —b. Leaf, bar = 1 cm. —c, d. Flower, bar = 1 mm. —e. Part of panicked inflorescence, bar = 1 cm. —f. Pubescence on petiole and rachis, bar = 2 mm. —g. Mature fruit, bar = 1 mm. Drawn from the type material (*Rebman 5634*) except for the fruit (g), which was drawn from *Rebman 6038*.
shape variable, mostly ovate, but also broadly elliptic or orbicular, the margin crenate or rarely entire, the apex acute to obtuse, rarely emarginate, the base cuneate to rounded, sometimes slightly cordate; upper leaflet surface dark green, densely brown punctate, puberulent but glabrescent with age, the lower surface gray to light green, sparsely punctate, densely pubescent and velvety. Inflorescence a terminal or axillary panicle, densely pubescent and velvety. Flowers small, perfect; calyx light green, densely pubescent, with 4 triangular lobes to 1 mm long; petals 4, free, white, obovate, 2–3 mm long, with a central patch of oil-gland dots and simple hairs on the abaxial surface of each petal; stamens 8, of which 4 are shorter in length and alternate with longer ones, separate; anthers with longitudinal dehiscence. Fruit a 1-seeded drupe, ellipsoid to ovoid, black at maturity, 9–13 × 8–11 mm, puberulent with simple, spreading hairs.

**Phenology.** Flowering September to November.

**Distribution and habitat.** Endemic to the state of Baja California Sur; elevations 390–1000 m; occurring in canyon bottoms and lower slopes on volcanic substrates usually associated with vegetation dominated by Lysiloma divaricatum Bentham, Ficus palmeri S. Watson, Celtis reticulata Torrey, Sebastiana bilocularis S. Watson, Stenocereus thurberi (Engelmann) Buxbaum, and Fouquieria diguetii (Tieghem) I. M. Johnston. Other plant species present in the canyon community with *Amryis carterae* include: Acacia kelloggiana A. M. Carter & Rudd, Acalypha subisica S. Watson, Bursera lasiophora S. Watson, Carlomagna pectinata Brandegee, Carminatia tenuiflora DC., Croton sonora Torrey, Diplura alternifolius (S. Watson) Uline & Bray, Eupatorium peninsulare Brandegee, Ferocactus peninsulae (Engelmann ex Weber) Britton & Rose var. peninsulae, Galium moranii Dempster subsp. aculeolatum Dempster, Hedyotis brevipes (Rose) W. H. Lewis, Jatropha cinerea (Ortega) Muller Argoviensis, J. vernicosa Brandegee, Justicia candida (Nees) L. D. Benson, Priava lappalacea (L.) Persson, Pseudobulbion thurberi (A. Gray) Fryxell, Solanum americann Miller, Tithonia thurberi A. Gray, Tornefortia volublis L., and Vallesia laciniata Brandegee.

**Etymology.** This new taxon honors the late Annetta Carter, an enthusiastic botanist who contributed greatly to our floristic knowledge of Baja California Sur. Carter collected intensively (including paratypes of this new species) in the Sierra de la Giganta, where together with the Sierra Guadalupe are the only known localities for this new taxon. The common name of this species is that which was used by the ranchers at Rancho Pie de la Cuesta near the type locality is “gobernadora.” This common name is normally used, however, for *Larrea tridentata* (Sessé & Moçó) Coville in most of Mexico including parts of the Baja California peninsula. *Amryis carterae* is most similar to *Amryis madrensis* S. Watson, which it superficially resembles in most aspects, but it does not have an upper leaf surface that is glossy or lustrous and the lateral veins are not prominent or obviously raised. The populations of *A. carterae* occur on volcanic substrates in northwestern Mexico, quite disjunct from those of *A. madrensis*, which are restricted to limestone substrates in central and northeastern Mexico and adjacent Texas (Standley, 1923; Wilson, 1911). There is, in addition, a report of *A. cf. madrensis* from the state of Jalisco (Lott, 1993), on the Pacific coast. A consistent feature of *Amryis carterae* is the pubescence, always present in the inflorescence and young leaves, the leaves becoming glabrescent, whereas in *A. madrensis* the pubescence may be present or absent.


**Acknowledgments.** This work was supported in part by funds from the National Geographic Society (Grant # 6022-97) and from Sven Lindblad and Special Expeditions, who funded the 1997 Lindblad Binational, Multidisciplinary Expedition to central Lower California organized by the San Diego Natural History Museum. Our gratitude is extended to the SD Herbarium staff (especially Judy Gibson) and volunteers for their continued assis-
tance with floristic research projects. A special thanks goes to Fred Roberts for supplying the botanical illustration. The first author is indebted to the many people who have joined and helped him with fieldwork on the flora of Lower California, especially José Luis León de la Luz at HCIB and José Delgadillo at BCMEX, both invaluable friends and colleagues. A special thanks to the appropriate Mexican authorities for granting permits and to Exequiel Ezcurra and Patricia Beller for their efforts in obtaining the papers and permits needed to conduct field research and to collect plant species in the region.

Literature Cited


