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Authors: Grusz, Amanda L., and Pryer, Kathleen M.

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PRIMER NOTE

DEVELOPMENT OF MICROSATELLITE MARKERS FOR THE APOMICTIC TRIPLOID FERN *MYRIOPTERIS LINDHEIMERI* (PTERIDACEAE)¹

AMANDA L. GRUSZ^{2,4} AND KATHLEEN M. PRYER³

²Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20013 USA;

and ³Department of Biology, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina 27708 USA

- *Premise of the study:* Microsatellite markers were developed for investigating the population dynamics of *Myriopteris lindheimeri* (Pteridaceae), an apomictic triploid fern endemic to deserts of the southwestern United States and Mexico.
- *Methods and Results:* Using 454 sequencing, 21 microsatellite markers were developed. Of these, 14 were polymorphic with up to five alleles per locus and eight markers amplified in one or more congeneric close relatives (*M. covillei*, *M. fendleri*, *M. aurea*, and *M. rufa*). To demonstrate marker utility, *M. lindheimeri* samples from three Arizona populations were genotyped at nine loci. For each population, diversity measures including percent polymorphic loci, frequency of heterozygotes across all loci, and genotypic diversity were calculated. Across the three populations, on average, 63% of loci were polymorphic, the average frequency of heterozygotes (across all loci) was 0.32, and average genotypic diversity was 0.34.
- *Conclusions:* These markers provide a foundation for future studies exploring polyploidy and apomixis in myriopterid ferns.

Key words: asexual; cheilanthonid; *Myriopteris lindheimeri*; polyploidy; pteridophyte; simple sequence repeats (SSRs).

Myriopteris Féé is an early diverging lineage of cheilanthonid ferns (Pteridaceae) that contains approximately 47 species encompassed within three major clades—all of which, until recently, were circumscribed in the large, polyphyletic genus, *Cheilanthes* Sw. (Grusz and Windham, 2013; Grusz et al., 2014). The covillei clade is the largest subclade in the recently resurrected genus *Myriopteris*, within which *M. lindheimeri* (Hook.) J. Sm. resides (Grusz et al., 2014). *Myriopteris lindheimeri* itself comprises a number of relatively widespread, apomictic triploid lineages ($n = 2n = 90$ chromosomes; Windham and Yatskievych, 2003) derived from a comparatively rare, sexual diploid cytotype through intraspecific whole genome duplication, i.e., autopolyploidy (Grusz et al., 2009). Its distribution spans the southwestern United States (Arizona, New Mexico, Texas) and adjacent Mexico (Windham and Rabe, 1993).

Here, we use 454 next-generation sequencing to develop microsatellite markers for *M. lindheimeri*. Like *M. lindheimeri*, many members of the covillei clade are also apomictic polyploids or, alternatively, sexual diploids that are involved in the formation of downstream polyploid taxa of hybrid origin (Grusz et al., 2009). For this reason, we tested our newly developed

markers for cross-amplification in diploid and polyploid taxa spanning the covillei clade, including: *M. aurea* (Poir.) Grusz & Windham (apomictic triploid), *M. covillei* (Maxon) A. Löve & D. Löve (sexual diploid), *M. fendleri* (Hook.) E. Fourn. (sexual diploid), and *M. rufa* Féé (apomictic triploid) (Windham and Rabe, 1993; Windham and Yatskievych, 2003; Grusz and Windham, 2013; Grusz et al., 2014).

METHODS AND RESULTS

Genomic DNA of a single individual of diploid *M. lindheimeri* (voucher: Schuettpelz 450 [DUKE], collected from the Tonto National Forest, Pinal Co., Arizona, USA) was extracted from silica gel-dried material using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit following the manufacturer's protocol (QIAGEN, Valencia, California, USA). Genomic DNA was run on two lanes (1/4 plate = 24 wells) using the Roche 454 GS-FLX Titanium sequencing platform (454 Life Sciences, a Roche Company, Branford, Connecticut, USA) at the Duke University Center for Genomic and Computational Biology sequencing facility. The 454 run generated 234,428 sequence reads with a median length of 403 bp. Raw data were scanned for di-, tri-, tetra-, penta-, and hexanucleotide perfect microsatellite repeats using MSATCOMMANDER version 0.8.2 (Faircloth, 2008). Of the 234,428 sequence reads searched, 25,295 sequences contained a total of 33,955 repeats. Given the surplus of repeat regions, we focused our efforts on a subset of nonplastid regions (determined by BLASTN against the *M. lindheimeri* chloroplast genome; Wolf et al., 2011) containing di-, tri-, and tetranucleotide repeats with sufficient flanking sequence in which to develop primers (Chakraborty et al., 1997). A total of 159 unlabeled primer pairs were designed in Primer3, using default settings, implemented within MSATCOMMANDER (Rozen and Skaltsky, 1999; Faircloth, 2008).

Each microsatellite region (159 in total) was amplified by PCR from genomic DNA of the individual for which the 454 sequencing was completed (Schuettpelz 450). This amplification followed Schuettpelz and Prysor (2007), except that the annealing temperature was set to 60°C to prevent nonspecific primer binding. Amplicons were visualized on a 1% agarose gel using SYBR Safe DNA Gel Stain (Life Technologies, Carlsbad, California, USA), run for 35 min at 75 V. Amplifications that produced a single strong band were purified

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*Author for correspondence: grusza@si.edu

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TABLE 1. Characteristics of 21 microsatellite markers developed in *Myriopteris lindheimeri*.^a

Locus	Primer sequences (5'-3') ^b	Repeat motif	Allele size range (bp)	T _m (°C)	n	A	Het	GenBank accession no.
F28JE	F: GCACGTCATTTGTA CCG R: CTAAACTGGCCTCTGCCAC	(AGC) ₄	271	60.0 58.9	16	1	0	KT215756
F9ROB	F: TGGAGCGGAAGGAGAATCG R: ACCTTCCACGCATCTG	(AGG) ₆	177	59.9 60.2	27	1	0	KT215757
FJIEP	F: GGC GGATCAAATGGACACC R: TCCATGCTGGATAGCTCTAC	(ATC) ₇	228–246	59.6 59.5	75	5	1	KT215758
FYM3K	*F: AGACTGAAACAGAACCTGC R: GTGTGCCGCTAAACAATGAAG	(ATC) ₈	197–203	59.2 59.8	84	4	0.99	KT215759
GCG5L	*F: GCGAACATTGGACAACGGG R: ACAGAAAC CCTATCAAGCAG	(CT) ₈	441–447	60.4 58.4	12	3	0.50	KT215760
HAWY1	F: ACGACTCGAATAAGTCTGC R: GAGCATGATGGAACACTGCC	(AAG) ₅	262–268	58.9 60.0	11	2	0.91	KT215761
HDLR7	F: CCTCGCCCTCTAGTAGC R: CCTTTGCAAGACATGCCG	(ATC) ₆	197–206	59.7 60.5	15	2	0.53	KT215762
HGGWA	^F: ACCCACGCATGTAACAGATTG R: ACCATTCTGTGGGAGGTC	(AAC) ₆	182–185	60.3 57.4	9	2	0.33	KT215763
HL9PJ	F: CTCACCAACTAACGCTCTTGAC R: GTGAGCTGCAGACGAAAGG	(CT) ₆	411–415	59.4 59.6	10	3	0.50	KT215764
HO454	F: AACACAGGTAGAGGGCGTG R: TGCTGCTGCCTTGAATCC	(AGC) ₆	175	60.1 59.5	6	1	0	KT215765
HY3SM	^F: TTGTCACTGTGCGACATGC R: TCTTTCTAGCAATCTCAGAAGACC	(ATGC) ₅	347–363	59.8 58.9	18	4	0.17	KT215766
IAO3P	F: ACAAGTGACATCCGGGG R: AGAGCTCCACCCCTTGACC	(AGAT) ₅	321	59.2 59.7	13	1	0	KT215767
IMEWX	F: TAGGTTGCGCATTGCTGG R: CGTTCTGAGTTTCGCCCC	(AGAT) ₁₀	352–356	59.9 58.9	14	2	0.14	KT215768
IQL10	F: ACGCCAATCGATCTCAAGC R: ATGAAGGGAGAATGTCGGC	(ACCTCC) ₄	184–214	59.1 58.0	31	4	0.68	KT215769
IVYHJ	F: GGGTAGAAAGAATTCAAGTGAGC R: GAATTGGGTCCGCAAGGC	(AAC) ₆	238	58.8 59.9	6	1	0	KT215770
J0629	^F: AGGTCTTTCCGCCATTTC R: CACTGCGCTGCAACCTATC	(AT) ₆	413–453	59.2 60.0	6	3	0.50	KT215771
JDYSK	^F: GCTTTGTTAGTGGCCTCGC R: AGGCTCGGATGAGGTTTGG	(CCG) ₄	280	60.2 60.2	75	1	0	KT215772
JGM27	*F: AGCGGGCCTATTCCAGATAC R: CTGTAGGTGGTGCAGAAC	(AGC) ₇	261–270	59.8 59.2	31	3	0.42	KT215773
JJUWV	F: AACACAGGTAGAGGGCGTG R: TGTACACATCTCCCGCTG	(AGC) ₆	191	60.1 59.8	6	1	0	KT215774
JS90I	*F: CTTAAAGCTGCCTGCGACC R: GTTGTGTCGGCTAAGGAC	(CT) ₆	352–355	59.9 59.3	10	2	0.70	KT215775
JW1YD	^F: GATCGTCGGCCGGGAAG R: TCGGATGTGCTACAGGTGG	(CCG) ₆	183–195	60.7 59.9	24	3	0.42	KT215776

Note: A = number of alleles; Het = frequency of heterozygotes; n = number of individuals surveyed; T_m = melting temperature.

^aVoucher information for surveyed individuals is listed in Appendix 1.

^bAsterisks (*) and hats (^) indicate that a 6-FAM (blue) or HEX (green) fluorescent label was used, respectively, when markers were multiplexed for population-wide genotyping (Tables 3 and 4); for all single-sample genotyping reactions, a 6-FAM (blue) fluorescent label was used.

TABLE 2. Amplification of microsatellite markers in taxa closely related to *Myriopteris lindheimeri*, together with their corresponding fragment lengths.^{a,b}

Locus	<i>Myriopteris covillei</i> (S2x)	<i>Myriopteris fendleri</i> (S2x)	<i>Myriopteris rufa</i> (A3x)	<i>Myriopteris aurea</i> (A3x)
F9ROB	193, 205	205	175, 199	208
FYM3K	194	194, 200	203	—
HAWY1	—	423, 435	—	—
HDLR7	—	206	209	206
HY3SM	357	354	355	361
J0629	221, 316*	313	—	—
JJUWV	—	—	—	207
JW1YD	190	184	190	187, 193

Note: — = failed amplification.

^aPloidy levels are indicated in parentheses after taxon names (S2x = sexual diploid, A3x = apomictic triploid; Windham and Rabe, 1993); fragment lengths in bp.

^bDetailed voucher information listed in Appendix 2.

*Fragment analysis produced stutter peaks.

TABLE 3. Population summary for nine highly polymorphic, newly developed microsatellite loci surveyed across three populations of *Myriopteris lindheimeri*.^a

Locus	Carr Canyon (<i>n</i> = 8)		Jacobson Canyon (<i>n</i> = 15)		Paradise (<i>n</i> = 13)	
	A	% Heterozygous	A	% Heterozygous	A	% Heterozygous
FYM3K	2	87.5	2	13.3	2	84.6
GCG5L	2	12.5	3	100	2	8.3
HGGWA	2	12.5	1	0.0	2	7.7
HY3SM	1	0.0	2	86.7	3	15.4
J0629	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
JDYSK	1	0.0	1	0.0	1	0.0
JGM27	1	0.0	1	0.0	2	7.7
JS90I	2	87.5	3	100	3	100
JW1YD	2	12.5	2	86.7	2	30.8

Note: % Heterozygous = proportion of individuals heterozygous at each locus for each population; A = number of alleles per population per locus; *n* = number of individuals per population.

^aVoucher information listed in Appendix 2. Geographic coordinates: Carr Canyon (31.4394°N, 110.2861°W); Jacobson Canyon (32.6834°N, 109.7632°W); Paradise (31.9590°N, 109.2116°W).

and sequenced also following the protocol of Schuettpelz and Prys (2007). Clean sequence fragments (assumed to represent ca. single-copy markers) were assembled in Sequencher 4.8 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA) and examined to confirm the presence of the anticipated microsatellite repeat. For regions with the repeat, new forward primers were designed with a CAG nucleotide tag (5'-CAGTCGGGCGTCATCA-3') incorporated at the 5' end of the primer sequence—to be used in combination with a complementary, fluorescently labeled nucleotide tag in subsequent genotyping reactions (Schuelke, 2000).

Genotyping reactions used 10× PCR buffer IV containing MgCl₂ (ABgene, Epsom, United Kingdom) combined with 2.4 mM dNTPs, 100 µg/mL bovine serum albumin (BSA), 5 U/µL Taq polymerase, 2 µM reverse primer, 10 µM CAG-tagged forward primer, 10 µM fluorescently labeled CAG complementary primer, plus 1 µL of DNA template for a 12-µL reaction. Each reaction entailed an initial denaturation step (94°C for 7 min), followed by 10 denaturation, annealing, and elongation cycles (94°C for 30 s, 62°C [–1°C per cycle] for 30 s, 72°C for 30 s, respectively) and 27 additional denaturation, annealing, and elongation cycles (94°C for 30 s, 51°C for 30 s, 72°C for 30 s, respectively) with a final elongation step (72°C for 12 min). Fragment analyses were run using a GeneScan 500 LIZ Size Standard on a 3730xl DNA Analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Waltham, Massachusetts, USA). The resulting data were visualized using GeneMarker 2.2.0 (SoftGenetics, State College, Pennsylvania, USA). Of the 159 primer pairs tested, 138 failed to amplify, amplified multiple bands, or produced poor fragment peaks (due to stutter, multiple peaks, or inconsistent amplification) and were discarded, leaving 21 markers that amplified well in *M. lindheimeri*.

To determine the utility of these 21 markers, we surveyed each new locus across multiple individuals spanning the northern range of *M. lindheimeri* (Table 1; Appendix 1). Fragment analysis revealed alleles ranging from 175–453 bp in length; of the 21 markers assessed, 14 were heterozygous within or polymorphic across individuals of *M. lindheimeri* (number of alleles ranging from two to five; Table 1), and eight amplified in one or more closely related taxa (Table 2). Population-level diversity measures were assessed for three populations of *M. lindheimeri* in Arizona, USA: Carr Canyon (*n* = 8 individuals; 31.4394°N, 110.2861°W), Jacobson Canyon (*n* = 16 individuals; 32.6834°N, 109.7632°W), and Paradise (*n* = 12 individuals; 31.9590°N, 109.2116°W) (Table 3). Individuals from each population were genotyped for a subset of our

newly developed, polymorphic microsatellite loci (nine loci total) using a multiplex approach: for each individual, all nine loci were amplified individually and the resulting fluorescently labeled amplicons were pooled in two separate multiplex reactions (Table 1). The resulting fragment data were used to calculate percentage of polymorphic loci (P), heterozygote frequency over all loci (Het), and genotypic diversity ($G = 1 - \sum g_i^2$, where g_i is the frequency of the i^{th} genotype; Table 4); all measures were calculated manually using Microsoft Excel version 14.4.8 (Microsoft, Redmond, Washington, USA). Samples from Carr Canyon and Jacobson Canyon were polymorphic at 55.6% of loci surveyed and each had relatively low genotypic diversity (0.25); however, Jacobson Canyon had a higher heterozygote frequency compared to Carr Canyon (0.43 vs. 0.24, respectively). Samples surveyed from Paradise were polymorphic at 77.8% of loci; and, while heterozygote frequency over all loci was relatively low (0.28), genotypic diversity was high (0.52), indicating a relative abundance of unique genotypes compared to other populations sampled.

CONCLUSIONS

In this study, we developed 14 polymorphic microsatellite loci for *M. lindheimeri*, eight of which amplify well in one or more congeneric species. *Myriopteris* is notorious for its high incidence of polyploidy, hybridization, and apomixis (Windham et al., 2009; Grusz et al., 2014), yet little is known about the influence of these processes on population dynamics in the genus (or in ferns in general). Given that polyploidy, hybridization, and apomixis are intimately linked to the evolution of many fern lineages, it is our hope that by refining our understanding of these processes in *Myriopteris*, we will improve our understanding of these phenomena in ferns as a whole.

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TABLE 4. Population-level genetic diversity statistics for nine highly variable microsatellite loci for three populations of *Myriopteris lindheimeri*.

Genetic diversity statistic	Carr Canyon (<i>n</i> = 8)	Jacobson Canyon (<i>n</i> = 15)	Paradise (<i>n</i> = 13)
% P	55.6	55.6	77.8
Het	0.24	0.43	0.28
G	0.25	0.25	0.52

Note: % P = % polymorphic loci; G = genotypic diversity; Het = heterozygote frequency over all loci; *n* = number of individuals sampled per population.

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APPENDIX 1. *Myriopteris lindheimeri* vouchers used to survey allelic variation for 21 newly designed microsatellite loci (Table 1). COUNTRY: State—Fern DNA Database no. (<https://fernlab.biology.duke.edu>); Collector no.: specific locality; voucher herbarium; SSR loci (0 = not amplified, 1 = amplified). For each individual, SSR loci are listed in the following order: F28JE, F9ROB, FJIEP, FYM3K, GCG5L, HAWY1, HDLR7, HGGWA, HL9PJ, HO454, HY3SM, IAO3P, IMEWX, IQL10, IVYHJ, J0629, JDYSK, JGM27, JJUWV, JS901, JW1YD. For example, “11111111111111111111” indicates data from a given individual contributed to the allele summary for all loci.

MEXICO: Baja California Sur—DB7262; *Moran* 18821; Mpio. Ensenada, Valle de Guadelupe; ASU; 001100000000000010000. DB7260; *Rebman* 2334; Mpio. Mulege, NW of Sierra de San Francisco; ASU; 001100000000000000000000. Chihuahua—DB7264; *Reeves* 5707; Mpio. Camargo, Sierra de la Ranchera; ASU; 001100000000000010000. DB9127; *Atwood* 21622; Mpio. Chihuahua, Ojito Pass S of Ciudad Chihuahua; BYU; 0000110010000000000000. DB7261; *Baker* 14364; Mpio. Temosachic, Yepachic; ASU; 001100000000000010000. DB7259; *Reeves* 4851; Mpio. Nuevo Casas Grandes, NW of Galeana; ASU; 001100000000000010000. No DB; *Atwood* 1176; Mpio. Nuevo Casas Grandes, E slope of Sierra Madre Occidental; UT; 0000100000000000000000. DB8594; *Correll* 21581; not available; NY; 011100110001110011001. DB8592; *Johnston* 11334; not available; NY; 1011000000000010010000. Durango—DB8593; *Díaz* 189; not available; NY; 001101001000000010010. Guanajuato—DB6522; *Rothfels* 3084; Mpio. Allende, NE of San Miguel de Allende; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB8584; *Rzedowski* 52144; not available; NY; 010100000010010000001. Jalisco—DB8585; *McVaugh* 16758; not available; NY; 001100000000000010010. Querétaro—DB6804; *Rothfels* 3476; Mpio. Colon; DUKE; 00100000000000000000. San Luis Potosí—DB6509; *Rothfels* 3066; Mpio. Santa María del Río, S of Santo Domingo; DUKE; 111110101111011111111. Sonora—DB7263; *McGill* 6441; Mpio. Fronteras, N of Esqueda; ASU; 000100000000000010000. DB7266; *Doan* 1218; Mpio. Imuris, NE Imuris; ASU; 001100000000000010000. DB8586; *Doan* 1218; Mpio. Imuris, NE Imuris; NY; 011100000010010011001. DB8595; *van Devender s.n.*; not available; NY; 110100000010010011001.

USA: Arizona—DB3165; *Schuettpelz* 458; Cochise Co., Coronado National Forest; DUKE; 1011100000000110011001. DB5749; *Grusz* 30; Cochise Co., Cochise Stronghold; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB8588; *Perry s.n.*; Cochise Co., Texas Canyon; NY; 001100000000010011000. DB8590; *Pray* 3224; Cochise Co., Chiricahua National Monument; NY; 111100000000010011001. DB5759; *Grusz* 40; Coronado National Forest, Arizona Trail Post; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB5760; *Grusz* 41; Coronado National Forest, Arizona Trail Post; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB5761; *Grusz* 42; Coronado National Forest, Arizona Trail Post; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB5762; *Grusz* 43; Coronado National Forest, Arizona Trail Post; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB5764; *Grusz* 45; Coronado National Forest, Arizona Trail Post; DUKE; 001101001000000010010. DB5766; *Grusz* 47; Coronado National Forest, Arizona Trail Post; DUKE; 0001100000000000000000. DB5767; *Grusz* 48; Coronado National Forest, Arizona Trail Post; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB3809; *Metzgar* 156; Gila Co., Tonto National Forest; DUKE; 100110000000000000000010000. DB3812; *Metzgar* 159; Gila Co., Tonto National Forest; DUKE; 100110000000000000000010000. DB6316; *Grusz* 163; Gila Co., Parker Creek Canyon; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB6317; *Grusz* 164; Gila Co., Parker Creek Canyon; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB5737; *Grusz* 18; Graham Co., Jacobson Canyon; DUKE; 001100000000000010000. DB5738; *Grusz* 19; Graham Co., Jacobson Canyon; DUKE;

001100000000000010000. DB8604; *Warnock* 20502; Brewster Co., SE of Marathon; SRSC; 001100000000000010000. DB8605; *Johnston* 3601; Brewster Co., S of Marathon; SRSC; 000100000000000010000. DB8583; *Worthington* 9233; El Paso Co., Franklin Mts.; NY; 000100000000110011000. DB8615; *Warnock* 16183; El Paso Co., Hueco Tanks; SRSC; 001100000000000010000. DB8616; *Warnock* 9992; El Paso Co., McKelligen Canyon; SRSC; 0001000000000000000. DB5364; *Rothfels* 2490; Jeff Davis Co., Fort Davis State Park; DUKE; 111101100111011111101. DB8609; *Keough* 235; Jeff Davis Co., Fern Canyon; SRSC; 0011000000000000000. DB8610; *Sperry* s.n.; Jeff Davis Co., Fern Canyon; SRSC; 111100000000110011000. DB8611; *Whitehouse* 11199;

Jeff Davis Co., W of Ft. Davis; SRSC; 110000110000000000000. DB8612; *Warnock* 22632; Jeff Davis Co., NW boundary of Davis Mts. State Park; SRSC; 001100000000010011000. DB8613; *Manning* 969; Jeff Davis Co., SE of Ft. Davis on Hwy. 118; SRSC; 11110110111011111111. DB8614; *Bridges* s.n.; Jeff Davis Co., S of arboretum; SRSC; 1111110011101111101. DB7258; *Reeves* 6344; Llano Co., Enchanted Rock; ASU; 001100000000000010000. DB8606; *Warnock* 176; Presidio Co., Tinaja Prieta Canyon; SRSC; 001100000000000010000. DB8607; *Warnock* 543; Presidio Co., Pelillos Arroyo; SRSC; 0011000000011001100. DB8608; *Warnock* 511; Presidio Co., San Antonio Canyon; SRSC; 001100000000110011000.

APPENDIX 2. Vouchers used to examine genetic diversity across populations of *Myriopteris lindheimeri* and to test amplification success in taxa closely related to *M. lindheimeri*. Taxon—Collector no.; locality; sample size (n). All vouchers deposited at DUKE.

Myriopteris aurea—Beck 1192; Mexico: Guerrero, Mpio. de Leonardo Bravo, approx. 1.4 km S of Corral de Bravo on road to Cruz de Cote and Hierba Santa; n = 1. *M. covillei*—Schuettpelz 442; USA: Arizona, Maricopa Co., Tonto National Forest, Sycamore Creek near Sugarloaf Mountain; n = 1. *M. fendleri*—Windham 3408; USA: Arizona, Bernalillo Co., Embudito

Canyon; n = 1. *M. lindheimeri*—Grusz 171; USA: Arizona, Graham Co., Jacobson Canyon; n = 15. Grusz 173; USA: Arizona, Cochise Co., Paradise; n = 13. Grusz 180; USA: Arizona, Cochise Co., Carr Canyon; n = 8. *M. rufa*—Metzgar 161; USA: Arizona, Gila Co., Sierra Ancha, Parker Creek Canyon; n = 1.