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A new species of *Ouratea* (*Ochnaceae*) from Cuba**Abstract**

Berazaín Iturralde, R.: A new species of *Ouratea* (*Ochnaceae*) from Cuba. – Willdenowia 33: 183-186. 2003. – ISSN 0511-9618; © 2003 BGBM Berlin-Dahlem.

Ouratea schizostyla from Isla de la Juventud, western Cuba, is described as a species new to science and illustrated. Its most salient feature, unique so far in *Ouratea*, are its styles that separate during anthesis.

The genus *Ouratea* Aubl. comprises about 150 species, growing in the tropical regions of the world (Mabberley 1997). They are mainly shrubs and trees, with alternate, simple, stipulate leaves. Leaf venation with its arcuate-ascending secondary veins becoming parallel to the leaf margin, is characteristic: this feature allows to easily recognise even sterile plants in the field. The bright yellow flowers form a showy inflorescence, they are pentamerous, actinomorphic, bisexual, with free sepals and petals and with ten stamens surrounding five carpels inserted on a columnar receptacle and united to form a single central style. The fruit is formed of two to five drupes – a showy feature often enhanced by colour contrast, then the drupes might be bright blue or black and the enlarged receptacle, on which they are borne, of a more or less vivid reddish tinge.

About a dozen species of *Ouratea* were recognised in the Caribbean by Dwyer (1944). As a result of revising the genus for the “Flora de la República de Cuba”, seven Cuban species and two interspecific hybrids (*Ouratea* \times *savannarum* Britton & P. Wilson and *O.* \times *xacunae* Borhidi) are accepted. The species are: *O. nitida* (Sw.) Engl. (Central America, Jamaica and Cuba), *O. striata* (Tiegh.) Urb. (Puerto Rico and eastern Cuba), and five endemic ones, *O. elliptica* (A. Rich.) M. Gómez (western Cuba), *O. agrophylla* (Tiegh.) Urb. (the whole island), *O. revoluta* (C. Wright ex Griseb.) Engl. (eastern Cuba), *O. xolismifolia* Britton & P. Wilson (Sierra Maestra in eastern Cuba) and a new one, *O. schizostyla* Berazaín (Isla de la Juventud). It is described below.

***Ouratea schizostyla* Berazaín, sp. nova** – Holotypus: *Bisse 1684* (JE). – Fig. 1-2

Frutex. *Rami* flexiles. *Petioli* foliorum 3-5 mm longus; *lamina* elliptica, (8-)8.8(-9.7) \times (2-)2.3(-2.8) cm metiens, plana, chartacea, basi obtusangula, margine integra, apice acuta, nervio medio



Fig. 1. *Ouratea schizostyla*, holotype specimen.

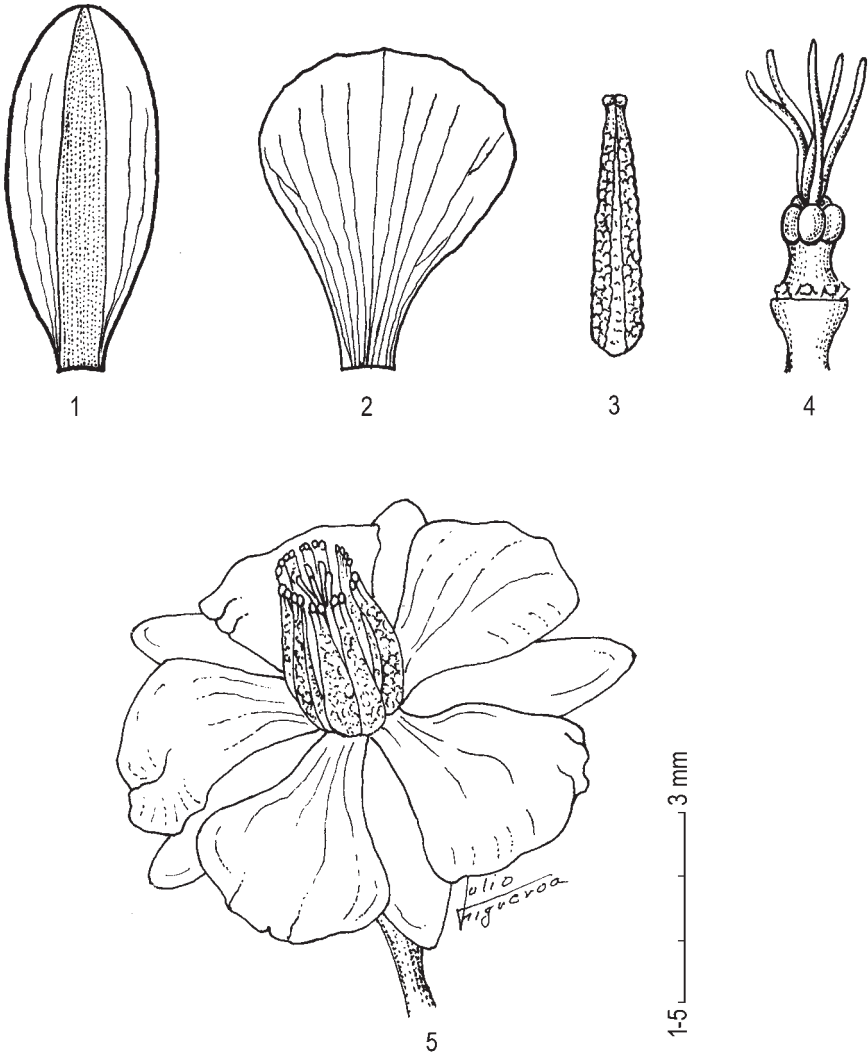


Fig. 2. *Ouratea schizostyla* – 1: sepal (abaxial surface); 2: petal; 3: stamen; 4: gynoecium; 5: flower. – Drawing by Julio Figueroa from the holotype.

supra impresso, secundariis supra prominulis infra inconspicuis, dimorphis – nam majores marginem versus sursum arcuati, minores crebri paralleli subrecti angulo fere recto abeuntes –, tertiariis evidenter reticulatis. *Inflorescentiae* terminales paniculatae folia aequantes; *bracteolae* triangulares, 1.5 mm longae, caducae; *pedicelli* 11-14 mm longi, ad rachin articulati. *Flores* sub anthesi diametro 11-12 mm; *sepala* 5, vernatione imbricata, navicularia, ovata, 7-8 × 2-2.5 mm metientia, dorso fascia centrali atriore et crassiore sub apice in mucronem abeunte notata, margine et apice pallidiora et tenuiora, margine integro lutea, apice acuto erosula; *petala* 5 libera, unguiculata, 6-7 × 4.5-5 mm metientia, membranacea, erosa, laete lutea; *stamina* 10, antheris sessilibus, oblongis, 6 mm longis, papillosis, basin versus dilatatis, poris subapicalibus praeditis; *carpella* 5, receptaculo columnari insidentia; *styli* 5, initio in columnam 2.5 mm longam striatam tortam coaliti, cito liberi convoluti. *Fructus* ignotus.

Specimens seen. – Western Cuba, Isla de la Juventud (Isla de Pinos), moist pine wood at the N foot of the Cerro Mal País, 3.1967, *Bisse 1684* (JE); id., Isle of Pines, La Cañada, border of arroyo, 16.2.1916, *Britton & al. 14403* (P [photo], S).

Etymology. – The epithet refers to the fact that the type specimen has 5 separating styles (Fig. 2.4), a feature unknown in any other *Ouratea* species.

Note. – The gathering *Britton & al. 14403* was originally identified as *Ouratea elliptica*, and the specimen at NY (not seen) is so cited by Dwyer (1944: 136). The two species, which both grow on the Isla de la Juventud, are indeed closely related. The plants collected by *Britton & al.* are in bud or early flower, so that they do not yet show the characteristic separation of the styles. However, the leaves of *O. schizostyla* are clearly different from those of *O. elliptica*, which are smaller, distinctly coriaceous, with the primary and secondary leaf venation less neatly set off and the tertiary reticulum obsolete.

Acknowledgements

The author thanks the Botanic Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem for the scientific support received, the Humboldt University of Berlin for financial assistance and Prof. Dr W. Greuter for valuable advice and for translating the diagnosis into Latin.

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