Wallenia maestrensis (Myrsinaceae), a new species from eastern Cuba

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Abstract


A species new to science, belonging to Wallenia subg. Homowallenia, has been discovered in the Sierra Maestra, Granma Province, in E Cuba. It is described and illustrated as W. maestrensis, then compared with its closest relative, W. bumelioides, known from several Cuban provinces and also illustrated.
Fig. 1. *Wallenia maestrensis* – 1: fruiting branch; 2: leaves, showing venation; 3: fruit. – Drawn from the holotype.
apice subacuta vel acuta; petala 5, per tertiam partem coalita, oblonga, 2-3 mm longa, 1.5 mm lata, in centro laminae glandulis conspicuis gregariis obsita, apice rotundata; staminodia 5, filamento 1 mm longo complanato, anthera sagittata 0.5-1 mm longa; ovarium globosum, 1.3 mm diametro; stylus ultra 1 mm longus; stigma integrum, punctiforme. Bacca obverse trullata (apice planata, basi attenuata), costis pluribus longitudinalibus inaequidistantibus percursa, inter costas glandulis atris numerosis sed indistinctis obtecta; semen singulum. – Florens et fructos ferens mensibus aprili et maio.

Small tree or shrub, dioecious. Leaves alternate, crowded at the tips of the branches, 5.2-9.3 cm long and 2.3-4.1 cm wide; petiole 0.8-1.8 cm long, not channeled, with multiseriate glandular hairs; leaf blade with several multiseriate and peltate glandular hairs, dark brown-red when dry, leathery, with simple craspedodromous venation, obovate in outline, the base cuneiform or decurrent on the petiole, the apex subacute to acute. Inflorescences axillary, pendulous, racemose, 4 cm long; peduncle sparsely hairy; pedicels 2-3 mm long. Male flowers 5-7 mm long; calyx 5(-6)-merous, sepals persistent, joined only at the very base, ovate, 2-3 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, margin serrate, apex acute; corolla 5-merous, the segments joined in their lower third, ovate-oblong, 3 mm long and 1.7 mm wide, with a cluster of conspicuous, prominent glands in the middle, apex rounded; stamens 5, with a flat 1-1.5 mm long filament and a sagittate 1 mm long anther dehiscing by longitudinal slits; ovary reduced. Female flowers 3-4 mm long; calyx 5-merous, sepals persistent, free, ovate, 1-2 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, margin serrate, apex subacute to acute; corolla 5-merous, the segments joined in their lower third, oblong, 2-3 mm long and 1.5 mm wide, with a cluster of conspicuous glands in the middle, apex rounded; staminodes 5, with a flat 1 mm long filament and a sagittate 0.5-1 mm long anther; ovary globose, 1.3 mm in diameter; style slightly more than 1 mm long, the stigma entire, punctiform. Fruit an obversely top-shaped (apically flattened, basally narrowed) berry with a single seed, its surface with several longitudinal, irregularly spaced ridges and numerous, indistinct dark glands in-between. – Flowering and fruiting in April and May.

The new species is closely related to Wallenia bumelioides (Griseb.) Mez (Fig. 2, 3). The diagnostic features of both are set out in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>W. maestrensis</th>
<th>W. bumelioides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petiole</td>
<td>not channeled</td>
<td>channeled above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf apex texture</td>
<td>subacute to acute</td>
<td>rounded to truncate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaf apex venation</td>
<td>leathery</td>
<td>pupery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trichome types</td>
<td>craspedodromous, simple</td>
<td>craspedodromous, mixed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepal margin tip</td>
<td>peltate and multiseriate</td>
<td>peltate only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepal margin tip</td>
<td>serrate</td>
<td>fimbriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sepal margin tip</td>
<td>acute</td>
<td>rounded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit shape surface</td>
<td>observely top-shaped</td>
<td>spheroidal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit shape surface</td>
<td>with several longitudinal ridges; many indistinct dark glands</td>
<td>wrinkled, not ridged; few, prominent dark glands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Altitude a.s.l.</td>
<td>900-1974 m</td>
<td>0-400 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat</td>
<td>cloud forest</td>
<td>(sub)littorial xeromorphic scrub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution (Prov.)</td>
<td>Sierra Maestra (Granma)</td>
<td>(Pinar del Rio, La Habana, Isla de la Juventud, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, Camaguey, Holguín)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 2. *Wallenia bumelioides*. – 1: fruiting branch; 2: leaf, showing venation; 3: fruit. – Drawn from specimen PFC 34817, HAJB.
Distribution: Endemic to the Sierra Maestra, E Cuba (Fig. 3). Growing in cloud forest (monte nublado) on yellowish-red mountain soil, at altitudes of 900-1974 m a.s.l.


References

Mez, C. 1901: IX. Myrsinaceae. – Pp. 389-433 in: Urban, I., Symbolae antillanae seu fundamenta florae Indicae occidentalis 2. – Berlin, etc.

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