

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

Author: Iturralde, Rosalina Berazaín

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ROSALINA BERAZAÍN ITURRALDE

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

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*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* × *savannarum* Britton & P. Wilson and *O. 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. Petiolus foliorum 3-5 mm longus; lamina elliptica, (8-)8.8(-9.7) × (2-)2.3(-2.8) cm metiens, plana, chartacea, basi obtusangula, margine integra, apice acuta, nervio medio



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

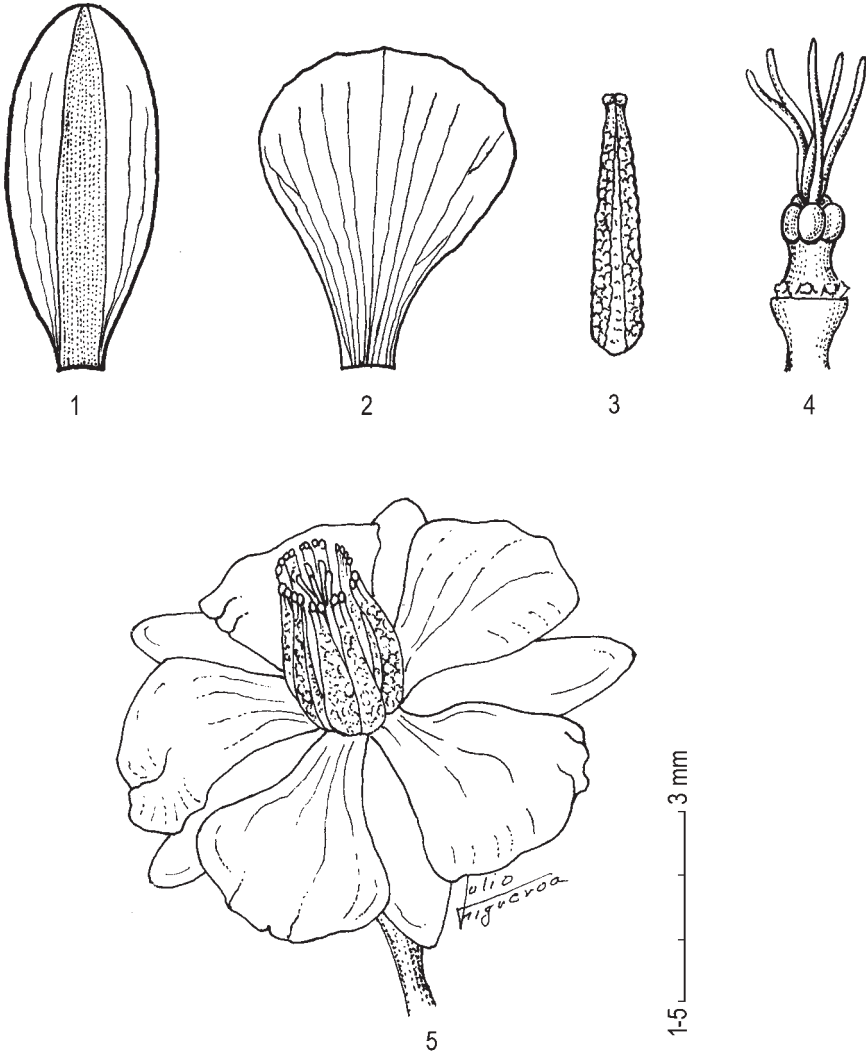


Fig. 2. *Ouratea schizostyla* – 1: sepal (abaxial surface); 2: petal; 3: stamen; 4: gynoecium; 5: flower. – Drawing by Julio Figueroa from the holotype.

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.

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Address of the author:

Rosalina Berazaín Iturralde, Jardín Botánico Nacional, Universidad de La Habana, Carretera del Rocío km 3 ½, Calabazar, La Habana, Cuba.