The genus Odontosoria (Dennstaedtiaceae, Pteridophyta) in Cuba

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The genus *Odontosoria* (*Dennstaedtiaceae, Pteridophyta*) in Cuba

Abstract


A new species, *Odontosoria reyesii*, known from a single locality in the province of Guantanamo, eastern Cuba, is described. A brief characterization of the other four species of the genus known from Cuba, an identification key and data on their distribution are added.

Key words: ferns, *Odontosoria reyesii*, Caribbean, vascular plants, taxonomy.

The species of *Odontosoria* are terrestrial ferns with a thin, creeping, intricately branched, wiry rhizome, which is densely covered with basifix, filiform to linear-ovate, clathrate, brownish golden to reddish brown, lustrous, translucent scales with a filiform apex and usually a truncated to rounded, entire base. The fronds are rampant and of indefinite growth, 2-4 times pinnate, with the last divisions small, flabelliform, cuneiform, variegated lobulate or cleft. The stipe is usually subwoody, straight, almost cylindrical, glabrous, armed with conical to acicular thorns or smooth (not so in the Antillean species). The rhachises, costae and costules are flexuous, with a thin distal fringe on each side, and with thorns that help the plant to climb in the surrounding vegetation. The pinnae and pinnules are numerous, deltate, ovate to linear and shortly petiolate, their veins are forked, free, evident or immersed in the laminar tissue, and ending very near to the margin, the apex sometimes being claviform. The sori are situated terminally on the veins of the last segments or lobes; the indusium is an urceolate, obconical structure that opens at the top and is formed by indusial tissue on one side and lamina tissue on the other side. The spores are triplanate, spherical, with almost smooth or finely granular surface.

*Odontosoria* comprises ten neotropical species, most with a restricted distribution; the six Greater Antillean species are regional endemics.

In Cuba the genus is represented by five species, of which two are endemic to the island, *Odontosoria wrightiana* Maxon and *O. reyesii* Caluff, the latter described below. *O. wrightiana* and *O. aculeata* form impenetrable thickets in open places and are considered as undesirable weeds, called by the common name “Tembladera”. They are occasionally used for handicraft.
This study is based on field observations and a revision of the specimens in the Cuban herbaria BSC, HAC, HAJB, HIPR and ULV. The treatments of the genus by Maxon (1913) and Proctor (1985, 1989) were consulted, e.g., for information on synonymy and type specimens. The genus concept follows Mickel & Beitel (1988), who consider Sphenomeris as an independent genus.

**Key to the species of Odontosoria in Cuba**

1. Medial and distal pinnae, and first order pinnules of the basal pinnae linear to linear-oblong or shortly linear-lanceolate, lax, pendent ............ 2
   - Pinnae and pinnules generally deltoid to deltoid-ovate, rigid, patent ............ 3

2. Ultimate segments obovate or oblanceolate, generally apically bilobate, the lobes often variedly bicuspidate; sori 1-3 per lobe, apical; thorns on rhachis sharp, up to 3 mm long ....
   - Ultimate segments rhombic to deltate, sinuous, the largest sometimes with a basal acroscopic lobe; sori up to 7 per lobe; thorns on rhachis obtuse, less than 1 mm long ....

3. Ultimate segments linear, linear-cuneiform, shortly oblong or slightly claviform, with a single sorus, or, if they are cleft at the apex, each portion with one sorus; blade of skeletal appearance ............ 3. *O. wrightitana*
   - Ultimate segments cuneiform, deltate, rhombic or obovate, not linear, variedly cleft or lobulate, the lobes or segments generally with more than one sorus; blade not of skeletal appearance ............ 4

4. Ultimate pinnules irregularly rhombic, formed by 2-4 segments, deltate-cuneiform, acutely cleft in the middle, the lobes usually with 2 sori; thorns acicular, patent .... 4. *O. aculeata*
   - Ultimate pinnules rhombic or irregularly obcordate, not cleft in the middle, or the biggest with 1-2 free, lateral and one almost rhombic terminal segment with an irregular lobe; lobes with 3-4 sori; thorns shortly conical, retrorse ............ 5. *O. jenmanii*

1. **Odontosoria reyesii** Caluff, sp. nov.

   Holotype: Eastern Cuba, Guantanamo Province, Baracoa, Arroyo Blanco, surroundings of the nursery, in red-yellowish, ferralitic soil, 150-250 m, 25.5.1991, *J. Reyes 3058 A/D* (BSC; isotypes: B, HAJB) – Fig. 1-3.

   Pinnae centrales et distales atque pinnulae pinnarum basiliarum lineareas ad lineari-oblongae vel lineari-lanceolatae, laxae, pendulae, Odontosoriae scandentes similes. *A. O. scandens* differt petiolibus et rachidibus rectis, non volubilibus, spinis rhachidis acutis ad 3 mm longis, segmentibus ultimis obovatis vel oblanceolatis, frequenter apicibus bilobulatis, lobulis varico bicuspidatis, soris apicibus, singulis ad ternis in lobis.

   Rhizome creeping, branched, tortuous, rigid, nodulous, 2-4 mm thick; rhizome scales linear to shortly linear-ovate or linear-lanceolate, 2.4.1 × 0.2-0.3 mm, reddish brown, clathrate, trans-lucid, apex filiform, base truncate to nearly rounded, entire. *Fronds* distant, 0.5-1 cm apart, up to 240 cm long; stipe 30-100 cm long and 1-2 mm thick, clearly reddish to dark brown, nearly cylindric, straight, with simple, pluricellular, brown, 0.1-0.3 mm long trichomes and some few conical thorns less than 0.1 mm long; blade ovate-attenuate, 3-pinnate, to 4-pinnate in the proximal part of the largest pinnae in well developed plants, chartaceous to coriaceous, with spaced, 0.1 mm long trichomes, or glabrescent, apex abruptly narrowed, like a very long lateral pinna; lamina surface dull, abaxially brown, adaxially dark brown; rhachis similar to the stipe, with a fringe on each side distally, with retrorsely curved, obtuse to acute, scarce thorns up to 3 mm long; pinnae 10-12 pairs, divericate, opposite to nearly opposite, petiolate up to 7 cm; proximal pinnae deltate-attenuate to ovate-attenuate, up to 40 cm long, inequilateral, the basiscopic side larger than the acroscopic one, composed of one or a few pairs of linear-oblong to linear-lanceolate pinnules, when alive lax and pendent, apex abruptly narrowed like a long terminal pinnule, or sometimes very gradually reduced with numerous pairs of pinnules; medial and distal pinnae nar-
rowly triangular-attenuate to linear, or narrowly linear-lanceolate, up to 98 × 4 cm, when alive lax and pendant; costae and costules medially flexuous, distally wavy or straight, with thorns similar to those of the rhachis, costae with a protuberance in the joint to the rhachis on the acroscopic side; pinnules of the first order very numerous, linear to narrowly linear-lanceolate, up to 60 × 3 cm, petiolate 10 mm; pinnules of the second order (if present) pinnate (the proximal ones).
Fig. 2. *Odontosoria reyesii* – A: third proximal pinna; B: insertion of the third proximal pinna; C: apex of a pinnule. – Drawn after the holotype.
segmentate (the medial ones) or lobulate (the distal ones), petiolate up to 5 mm; segments (or lobes) obovate-oblanceolate, apically bilobulate, lobules often varieyly bicuspidate, those of the distal portion on pinnae and pinnules very widely decrescent, strongly ascending, the apical ones minute, confluent, seemingly of indefinite growth; veins 4-7 per segment, with clavate apex, ending before the margin, abaxially almost indiscernible, adaxially evident. Sori 1-2(-4) in the apex of the ultimate lobes; indusium obconic, more delicate than the opposed portion of the lamina tissue, apex bilabiate, the lips often broken.

Eponymy. – This species is devoted to its first collector, Dr Orlando Joel Reyes, phytocenologist of the Eastern Ecosystems and Biodiversity Centre (BIOECO).
Distribution and habitat. – Endemic; restricted to a single locality in eastern Cuba, Guantanamo Province, near Baracoa, where it is locally abundant on the banks of the Arroyo Blanco river, on yellowish to reddish ferrallitic soil, in full or slightly filtered sun light, between 150 and 250 m of altitude.


Notes. – Besides the differences given in the key, *Odontosoria reyesii* differs from *O. scandens* in the rhachis, which is upward and straight, leaning on the surrounding vegetation in the beginning, but is winding later, so that the frond grows intimately wound in the plant that sustains it. In *O. reyesii*, furthermore, the lamina tissue is not spongy, the sori are superficial and the indusium is bilabiate, whereas in *O. scandens* the lamina tissue is spongy, the sori are immersed and the margin of the indusium is not bilabiate.

Unique among the Caribbean species of *Odontosoria* are the obovate-lanceolate, apically bicuspidate ultimate divisions as well as the architectural and the pendent habit of the pinnae and pinnules of *O. reyesii*.


*Rhizome* 2-4 mm thick; *rhizome scales* narrowly linear-lanceolate, 1-1.9 × 0.2-0.3 mm, reddish brown. *Froonds* up to 2 m long; *stipe* with some conical, < 0.1 mm long thorns or almost smooth; *blade* 3–4-pinnate, apex abruptly narrowed, like a very long lateral pinna; *rhachis* widening, with thorns similar to those of the stipe; *pinnae* deltate-attenuate to ovate-attenuate (the proximal ones) or linear to linear-lanceolate (the distal ones), laxly patent or pendunculate, 15-40 cm long; *costae* and *costules* flexuous to wavy, with thorns similar to those of the stipe; *pinnules* of first order in 1-4 pairs, shortly linear to linear-lanceolate, up to 60 × 2 cm, with a similar terminal one, very elongate, mostly 1-pinnate over the entire length; *pinnules* of second order rounded-trapeziform to obliquely ovate-oblong or deltate-ovate, contiguous, the external margin slightly

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crenate, lobulate or at the proximal side sometimes pinnately divided; veins 6-7 in each lobule. Sori up to 7 on each lobule, totally immersed; indusium indiscernible, apex irregularly erose.

Distribution and habitat. – Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico. Present in the eastern Cuban provinces Granma, Santiago, Holguín and Guantanamo. Found in montane and submontane rainforest, pine forest and sclerophyllous rainforest on serpentine, growing twining on the trunks of small trees and bushes in sunny, light places, forest margins or road banks, between 0 and 1200 m altitude; at low altitudes preferring high rainfall and serpentine soil. Common.


Rhizome 2-2.5 mm thick; rhizome scales acicular, 1-1.5 × 0.2-0.3 mm, golden-brown. Fronds up to 2 m long; stipe with numerous acicular, straight, patent thorns, 2-3.5 mm long; blade 4-pinnate, apex gradually narrowed; rachis straight, with thorns similar to those of the stipe; pinnae deltate to ovate, 15-20 × 8-13 cm; costae and costules strongly flexuous, with numerous thorns, 3-4 mm long; pinnules of first order in the largest fronds 5-6 pairs, deltate to oblanceolate, pinnules of second order of similar contour to those of first order, the axes with scarce or without thorns; pinnules of third order composed of 1-2, unequally petiolate segments when large, cuneiform, cleft almost to the base in 2 very thin, almost free or acutely united, linear or slightly clavate lobes, 1.5-4 mm long and 0.5 mm wide or less, petiolate up to 5 mm; veins one per segment, or if two, each extending to one of the marginal lobes. Sori solitary at the end of the segments or lobes; indusium transversely obconic or oval, more delicate and clear abaxially than the lamina tissue, partially free on the sides, the whole margin entire.

Distribution and habitat. – A Cuban endemic, present in western Cuba (province Pinar del Rio and Isla de la Juventud), central Cuba (provinces Cienfuegos and Sancti Spiritus) and eastern Cuba (province Granma: Guisa, Sierra Maestra), growing in evergreen forest, pine forest, gallery forest and secondary vegetation, in sunny, light places, forest margins or road banks, on sandstone soil, silicea sand and other very acidic soils, between 0 and 700 m. Common in western Cuba, frequent in central Cuba and only known by one collection in eastern Cuba.

Selected specimens (all in BSC). – CUBA: PINAR DEL RIO: Cayo Ratones, Alturas de Pizarras del Sur, San Juan y Martínez, pine forest, 300 m, 4.2.1990, Caluff & al. 2872; El Cuzco, Sierra del Rosario, 450 m, 4.5.1984, Caluff 877; margins of the El Punto dam, Las Ovas, on white sand, 10 m, 6.12,1982, Urquiola 424. — SANTI SPIRitus: Jesús Delgado stream, Cudina, Escaimbay, gallery forest, 500-600 m, 25.4. 1985, Calulf 1296; headwaters Jesus Gonzalez stream, Cudina, Escaimbay, 600 m, 26.4.1985, Calulf 1350. — GRANMA: Maria Tomasa, Guisa, Sierra Maestra, pine forest, 500-800 m, 12.3.1990, J. Reyes & E. del Risco 2922.

4. Odontosoria aculeata (L.) J. Sm., Cult. Ferns: 67. 1857
Rhizome 3-4.5 mm thick; rhizome scales acicular, 3-3.5 × 0.2-0.3 mm, reddish brown. Fronds up to 3 m long; stipe with numerous acicular, straight, patent thorns, 2-4 mm long; blade 4-pinnate, towards the apex gradually reduced; rachis straight, with thorns similar to those of the stipe; pinnae deltate-ovate, 20-45 × 12.5-21 cm; costae and costules flexuous, with thorns similar to those of the stipe; pinnules of first order numerous, deltate-oblong to deltate-ovate, segments, cleft in the middle, each lobe emarginate and with 2 sori; veins 2 in each lobe. Sori usually 2 in the end of each lobe of the segments, if 1, often served by 2 veins; indusium obconic or oval, more delicate abaxially, paler than the lamina tissue, the whole margin entire.

Distribution and habitat. – Cuba, Hispaniola and Puerto Rico. Present in central Cuba (provinces Cienfuegos and Sancti Spíritus) and eastern Cuba (provinces Granma, Holguín and Guantánamo). Growing in montane and submontane rainforest, evergreen forest, pine forest, gallery forest, serpentine rainforest and secondary vegetation, in sunny places, clearings, forest margins or road banks, between 0 and 1200 m. Frequent in central Cuba, common in eastern Cuba.

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