A new combination in Senegalia (Fabaceae: Mimosoideae)

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ABSTRACT

Morphological differences separating the two recognized varieties of Senegalia tenuifolia (L.) Britton & Rose necessitate separation of Senegalia tenuifolia (L.) Britton & Rose var. producta (J. W. Grimes) Seigler & Ebinger from Senegalia tenuifolia (L.) Britton & Rose var. tenuifolia and recognition of Senegalia producta (J. W. Grimes) Seigler and Ebinger comb. nov. as a distinct species. Published online www.phytologia.org Phytologia 103(4): 104-105 (December 22, 2021). ISSN 030319430.

KEY WORDS: Senegalia, Acacia, Fabaceae, Mimosoideae, Neotropics, new combination.

Genus Senegalia has approximately 95 species in the New World. These are readily distinguished from other species of Acacia sensu lato by the presence of prickles at the nodes and/or on the internodal areas (Seigler et al. 2006). Among the lianaceous species of this genus, two varieties of Senegalia tenuifolia, have been described. These were originally described at the varietal level (Grimes 1992), however, further study and the availability of additional specimens indicate that there are sufficient characters to recognize the two taxa at the species level.

Senegalia tenuifolia has globose inflorescences that are 5-10 mm across whereas S. producta has short cylindrical spikes that are less than 2X longer than wide (9-14 x 6-9 mm wide). According to Rico-Arce (2007) the leaves of Acacia tenuifolia var. producta are longer (200 mm) versus 150 mm in Acacia tenuifolia var. tenuifolia. The number of pinna pairs are as high as 38 in S. producta and 10-23 pairs in S. tenuifolia. Senegalia producta occurs in semi-deciduous to riparian evergreen forests, disturbed second growth forest and thickets from sea level to 500 m Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, and Suriname. In contrast, Senegalia tenuifolia is found in dry deciduous forests to evergreen tropical forests, thorn-scrub thickets, disturbed second growth forest and thickets from sea level to 1500 m in the Caribbean (Cuba, Guadeloupe, Martinique), and from central Mexico south into South America to Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia. We base our conclusions on examination of numerous specimens from throughout the range (see cited specimens below).


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank several colleagues for advice concerning questions of nomenclature and general taxonomic advice. Among these are: J. Lee Crane, G. Tucker and V. Hollowell. We wish to acknowledge support by the National Science Foundation (NSF DEB 04-15803) and by the American Philosophical Society (1992).

LITERATURE CITED

