

SENEGALIA ARISTEGUIETANA (L. CÁRDENAS) SEIGLER & EBINGER (FABACEAE: MIMOSOIDEAE): AN UNCOMMON SPECIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND NORTHERN SOUTH AMERICA

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ABSTRACT

A new combination is made in *Senegalia*: *Senegalia aristeguietana* (L. Cárdenas) Seigler & Ebinger, based on *Acacia aristeguietana* L. Cárdenas, *Ernstia* 2(1-2):31. 1992. We have collections from southern Mexico (Chiapas), Honduras, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela. A detailed description of the taxon is given. *Phytologia* 94(2): 276-279 (August 1, 2012).

KEY WORDS: *Senegalia aristeguietana* comb. nov., Fabaceae.

During our studies of *Acacia* s. l. in the New World, we found a few specimens that we originally thought represented a new species in the genus *Senegalia*. Recently we discovered that this entity had already been described by Cárdenas (1992) as a member of the genus *Acacia* from a single state in Venezuela. The name proposed by Cárdenas (1992), *Acacia aristeguietana* fits, in all distinguishing characteristics, the specimens that we had originally considered to represent a new species. Unfortunately, when we examined the Kew isotype of this species, we erroneously synonymized it with *Senegalia polyphylla* (DC.) Britton & Rose (Seigler et al. 2006). The new combination is made below along with a detailed species description, specimens examined, and discussion of the probable relationship of this taxon to closely related species.

Senegalia aristeguietana (L. Cárdenas) Seigler & Ebinger, **comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Acacia aristeguietana* L. Cárdenas, *Ernstia* 2(1-2):31.1992. – TYPE: VENEZUELA. TÁCHIRA: Las Dantas, vía entre Peracal y Rubio, alt. 1000 m, 25 Aug 1991, L. Cárdenas & O. Tapias 3864 (holotype: MY; isotype: K! (000530832), MEXU (PVT633146).

Climbing **shrub** or **liana** to 35 m long; twigs light to dark purple-brown, not flexuous, terete to slightly ridged, glabrous to puberulent; short shoots absent; prickles light purple-brown, flattened, straight to recurved, woody, 1-4 × 1-5 mm at the base, glabrous to lightly puberulent, persistent, widely scattered along the twig, petiole, and rachis. **Leaves** alternate, 120-300 mm long; stipules light brown, linear, symmetrical, flattened, straight, herbaceous, 1-3 × 0.1-0.4 mm near the base, puberulent, early deciduous; petioles shallowly adaxially grooved, 25-55 mm long, lightly to densely puberulent; petiolar gland solitary, located near the base of the petiole, sessile and fused throughout, oblong, 2-7 mm long, apex mostly bulbous, wrinkled, glabrous; rachis adaxially grooved, 70-250 mm long, lightly to densely puberulent, an orbicular gland 0.6-1.2 mm across between the upper 1 to 6 pinna pairs, apex usually flat, glabrous; pinnae 15 to 30 pairs per leaf, 40-110 mm long, 4-13 mm between pinna pairs; paraphyllidia 0.4-0.8 mm long, commonly absent; petiolules 1.0-2.5 mm long; leaflets 50 to 90 pairs per pinna, opposite, 0.6-1.2 mm between leaflets, linear, 3.6-6.5 × 0.6-1.3 mm, glabrous, lateral veins not obvious, 1 vein from the base, base oblique and truncate on one side, margins lightly ciliate, apex obtuse to acute, midvein subcentral. **Inflorescence** a densely 20- to 35-flowered globose head 8-13 mm across, in terminal racemose or paniculate clusters, the main axis to 1.5 m long; peduncles 6-25 × 0.4-0.6 mm thick, puberulent; receptacle subglobose; involucre commonly absent, rarely a single small bract located near the top of the peduncle, early deciduous; floral bracts spatulate, 0.3-0.7 mm long, puberulent, early deciduous. **Flowers** sessile, white; calyx 5-lobed, 1.3-2.2 mm long, puberulent; corolla 5-lobed, 2.2-3.5 mm long, mostly puberulent, lobes one-quarter the length of the corolla; stamen filaments 4.5-6.5 mm long, distinct; anther glands present; ovary pubescent, on a stipe to 1.8 mm long. **Fruits** light brown to reddish brown, straight, flattened, not constricted between the seeds, oblong, 100-230 × 27-35, coriaceous, transversely striated, puberulent, eglandular, dehiscent

along both sutures; stipe 10-15 mm long; apex obtuse to slightly beaked. **Seeds** unknown. Flowers Aug-Oct. Chromosome number: Not determined. Distribution: Wet tropical forests and disturbed second growth forest from sea level to 1100 m in southern Mexico (Chiapas), south through Panama to Colombia and Venezuela.

Specimens Examined: **CENTRAL AMERICA:** **HONDURAS:** **Atlántida:** 10 km E of Tela, orillas Río Piedras Gordas, alt. 5 m, 15 Aug 1981, *J.L.Segovia 53* (MO); 10 km E of Tela, orillas Río Piedras Gordas, alt. 5 m, 15 Aug 1981, *J.V.Soto 47* (MO); **Colon:** Ciudad de Trujillo. Barrio Cristales, 17-20 Jul 1973, *C.Nelson & J.R.Martínez 1255* (MO). **MEXICO:** **Chiapas:** 4 km W of Crucero Corozal, Palenque-Boca Lacantum road, alt. 180 m, 19 Sep 1984, *E.Martínez S. 7599* (ASU, MO, WIS); 4 km SE of Palenque, 20 Sep 1979, *O.Téllez & E.Martínez 848* (CM). **PANAMA:** **Darién:** Vicinity of El Real, alt. 15 m, 7 Oct 1938, *P.H.Allen 961* (MO); 1-3 km S of El Real, near sea level, 7 Jan 1975, *A.Gentry 13470* (MO). **SOUTH AMERICA:** **COLOMBIA:** **Antioquia:** Trail from Tirana Creek to Providencia, alt. 400-700 m, 25 Oct 1972, *D.D.Soejarto 3495* (F). **Bolivar:** 16 km NE of San Jacinto, Cerro Maco, alt. 650 m, 8 Aug 1985, *J.L.Zarucchi & H. Cuadros 4052* (ILL); **Sucre:** Coloso, alt. 200 m, 12 Mar 1992, *L.H.Soto & H.Giraldo 4* (MO). State not listed: 1760-1808, *J.C.Mutis 3626* (US). **VENEZUELA:** **Aragua:** Parque Nacional de Rancho Grande, June 1940, *E. Delgado 282a* (US). **Distrito Capital:** Parque Nacional de El Pinar, Caracas, Jul 1940, *E.Delgado 293* (F); Lower Cotiza, near Caracas, alt. 900-1000 m, 20 Aug 1918, *H.Pittier 8041* (F, MO, MT, US); Near Petare, 11 Sep 1921, *H.Pittier 9789* (MT, NY, US). **Carabobo:** Vicinity of Las Trincheras, road between Caracas-La Guaira, 15 Jun 1922, *H.Pittier 10379* (NY, US). **Lara:** Entre Terepaima y Cabudare, alt. 500-900 m, 5-10 Aug 1970, *J.A.Steyermark & F.Delascio, G.C.K. & E.Dunsterville 103668* (CM, NY). **Miranda:** Caracas-Maracay, between kms 37-38, 16 Sep 1972, *L.Cárdenas de Guevara 1376* (F); near Petare, 11 Sep 1921, *H.Pittier 9789* (US); Near Arenazas, road Caracas-Tuy, 26 Sep 1926, *H. Pittier 12219* (A, CM, F, MO, NY, PH, US). **Táchira:** Capacho Nuevo, 17 Aug 1975, *L.Cárdenas 2191* (F); La Puente, Municipio Palmira, 29 Oct 1976, *L.Cárdenas de Guevara, A.Costero & A.González 2485* (F).

On the label of one specimen (*Allen 961* from Panama) this taxon is described as a giant thorny liana in the top of trees to 35 m

with the white flowers in panicles to 1.5 m long. This little known, but widely distributed, species that occurs from northern South America (Colombia and Venezuela) north to southern Mexico (Chiapas) was not described until 1992. The species does not appear to be common anywhere except possibly in northern Venezuela (Cárdenas 1992). The oblong petiolar gland is located near the base of the petiole and the apex is bulbous and wrinkled a characteristic typical of most species apparently related to *Senegalia amazonica* (Benth.) Seigler & Ebinger. The combined characteristics of the globose inflorescences, the numerous pinna pairs (17-30), and the widely scattered prickles separate this species from other members of this group of species.

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