

A NEW SPECIES OF *CALYPTRANTHES* (MYRTACEAE) FROM PANAMA

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ABSTRACT

A new species of Myrtaceae from Panama, *Calyptranthes straminea* B. Holst, is described and illustrated. It is most closely similar to *C. contrerasii* Lundell from Guatemala, with which it shares cordate to subcordate leaves and narrowly winged stems.

Thirty-seven species of *Calyptranthes* (Myrtaceae) were recently treated in *Flora Mesoamericana* (Holst & Kawasaki 2009). While reviewing a collection made in the wet, lowland forest of Colón Province, Panama, at the mining concession Minera Panama SA (previously Teck Cominco Petaquilla), it was immediately clear that one specimen represented a new addition to the Flora and a new species for science.

While most *Calyptranthes* species are distinguished by their bifurcate vegetative branching, paired panicles, and circumscissile flowers, the distinction lessens in certain parts of South America and becomes muddled with its closest relatives, *Myrcia* and *Marlierea*. However, following current generic concepts, the species described here clearly falls into *Calyptranthes*.

CALYPTRANTHES STRAMINEA B. Holst, **sp. nov.** **TYPE: PANAMA.** **Colón:** Teck Cominco Petaquilla mining concession, near helipad, 190 m, 8° 50' 05" N, 80° 39' 45" W, 21 Jun 2008 (fl), *G. McPherson* 20568 (holotype: PMA!; isotypes: F, K, MO!, SEL!). Figures 1,2.

Calyptranthes straminea appears related to *C. contrerasii* Lundell from Guatemala. Both species have cordate to subcordate leaves and narrowly winged stems. The new species differs by having numerous flowers per panicle (40–50 vs. to 5), mostly obovate to elliptic leaf blades (vs. ovate to lanceolate), and abruptly narrowed, shortly acuminate leaf apices (vs. evenly narrowed to an obtuse or acute apex).

Tree, 9 m tall; mostly glabrous, with few sparse trichomes present at base of flowers; bark unknown, youngest branchlets narrowly winged, becoming complanate with age. **Leaves** sessile, the blades drying grayish to greenish brown adaxially, usually with a rusty color along the adaxial midvein especially basally, light brown abaxially, obovate to elliptic, 9.5–11 × 4–5.5 cm, chartaceous when dry, glabrous, midvein narrowly sulcate adaxially, prominently convex abaxially, secondary veins 12–18 pairs, slightly ascending, inconspicuous adaxially, visible though not prominent abaxially, marginal vein 2–2.5(–3.5) mm from the margin and gently arching between the secondary veins, the outer 1 mm of the margin revolute, apex abruptly narrowed to a 6–10 mm long, conduplicate-reflexed acumen, base subcordate, somewhat amplexicaul, glands not visible or only scarcely so adaxially, slightly more visible abaxially with magnification. **Inflorescences** panicles, either paired or reduced to one per axil, borne on leafy branches toward branch apices, 5–6 × 2–4 cm, 40–50-flowered, occasionally subtended by a leafy bract to 1 cm long that appears to be caducous at or before anthesis; peduncles 2–4 cm long, ca. 1.5 mm wide, peduncle and lateral axes stramineous, heavily gland-dotted, relatively broad compared to flower bud width, glabrous. **Flowers** short-pedicellate, the pedicel 0.5 mm long, buds 1.5–2.0 mm long, globose with a blunt apicule; hypanthium mostly glabrous or with a few sparse, short, broad, and indistinct trichomes basally, hypanthium collar prolonged 1 mm beyond the summit of the hypanthium with thick, leathery walls,

calyptra 1.5–2 mm wide, thin; petals absent; stamens ca. 60, filaments 4 mm long, anther thecae reniform, ca. 0.3 mm long; style gradually narrowing to a punctiform stigma; ovary bilocular, ovules 2 per locule. **Fruit** and seeds unknown.

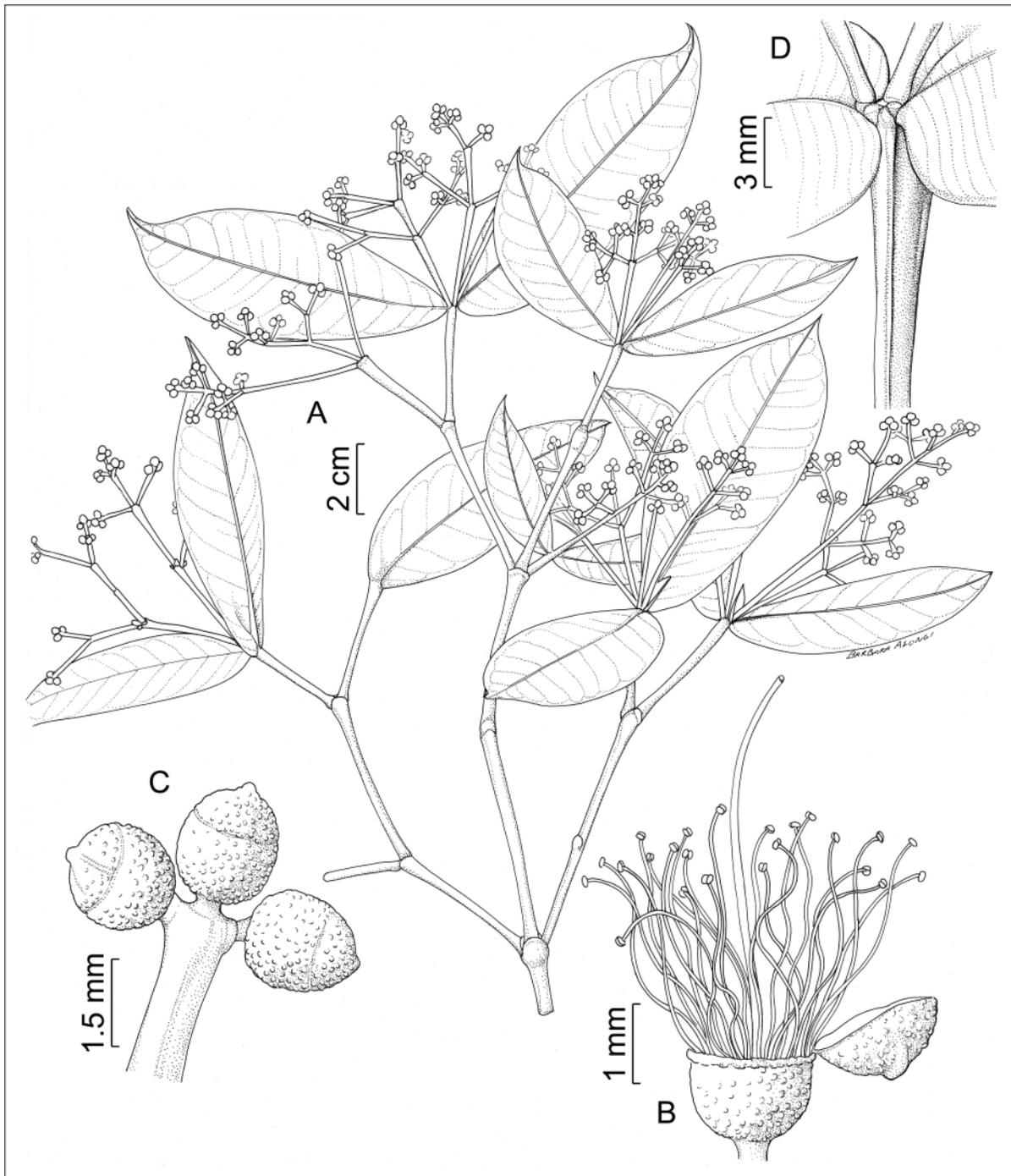


Figure 1. *Calyptranthes straminea* B. Holst. A, habit; B, flower buds; C, detail of flower. Drawn from *G. McPherson 20568* (MO).

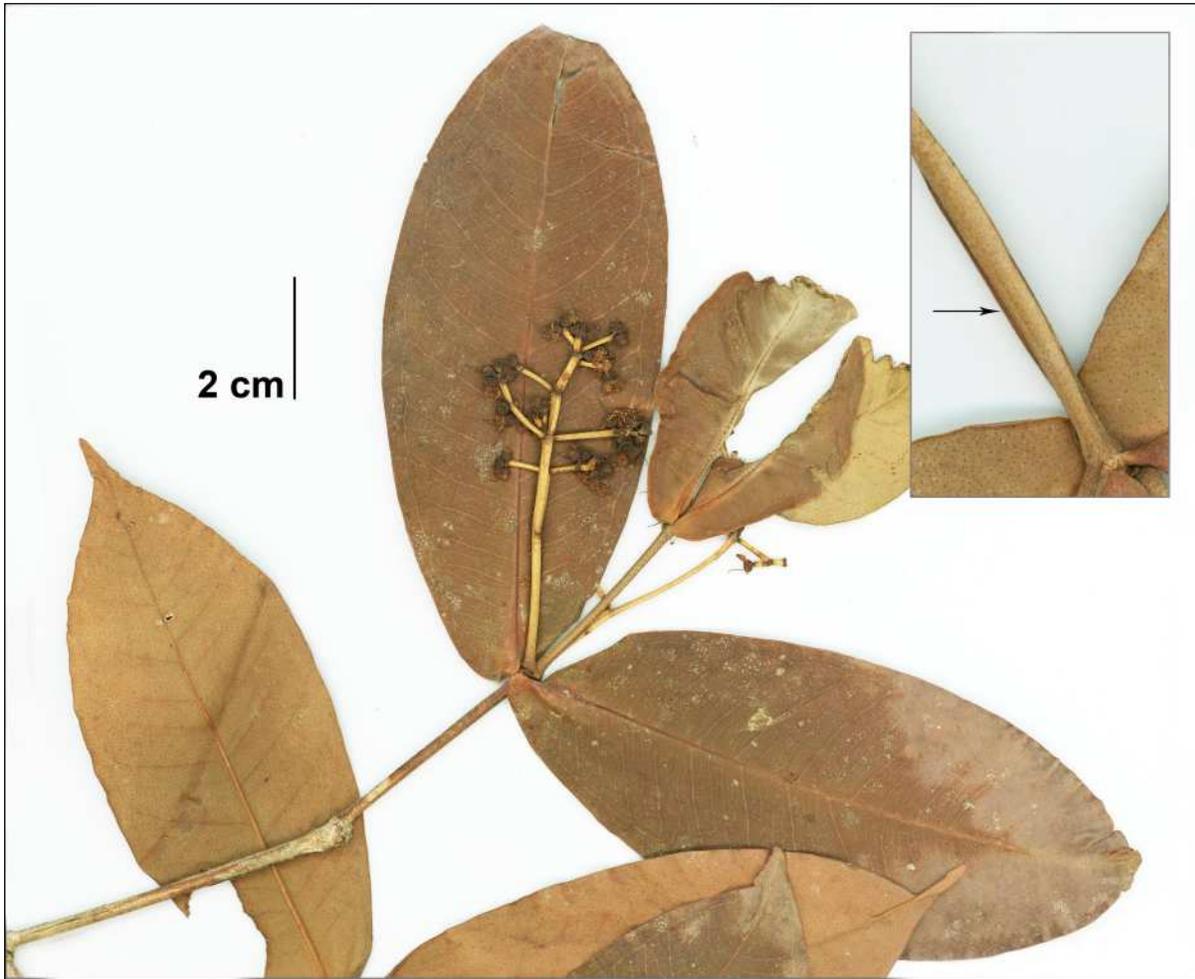


Figure 2. Scan of flowering branch. Inset shows narrow branchlet wings. From G. McPherson 20568 (SEL).

The collection cited below is completely vegetative and perhaps comes from a branch growing in deep shade. Its leaves are larger than the fertile type collection, to 6×18 cm.

Paratype: **PANAMA: Colón:** Coclé del Norte, Area del helipad C10, 108 m, $8^{\circ} 48' 29''$ N, $80^{\circ} 43' 07''$ W, 28 Aug 2012 (st), M. Laurencio, O. Ortiz, & E. Sánchez 1032 (MO!, PMA).

Etymology. The species epithet *straminea* refers to the straw-colored inflorescence axes when dried, which contrast markedly with the dark brownish flower buds.

Conservation Status. *Calyptanthes straminea* is known by one fertile and one sterile collection and may be considered data deficient, but it is inherently at risk by being found within a mining concession.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

Holst, B.K. and M.L. Kawasaki. 2009. *Calyptanthes* (Myrtaceae). In: G. Davidse et al. (eds.). *Flora Mesoamericana* 4: 69–77.