

STUDIES IN RHAMNACEAE I. *Condalia henriquezii* Boldingh in
Venezuela.

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During routine curatorial work in the Herbarium of the Missouri Botanical Gardens a phytogeographically interesting representative of a genus new to Venezuela was discovered in a consignment of specimens sent for identification for the Flora of the Falcón Project.

Condalia henriquezii Boldingh is reported here as a new specific and generic record for Venezuela

According to JHONSTON (1962 and 1972) *Condalia* Cavani-
lles is an exclusively American genus of arid zones habitats
with twelve species in North America (Texas, Baja California,
and North Mexico), five species in continental South America
(Argentina, Southern Peru, and Southeast Brasil), and one spe-
cies *Condalia henriquezii*, known only from the Dutch West In-
dies (Curacao and Bonaire).

When Boldingh originally described *C. henriquezii* from
Curacao and Bonaire in 1914, it represented a remarkable dis-
junction in the generic range, well over 1000 miles from the
nearest station for *Condalia* in either North or South Ameri-
ca. The new record from northern Venezuela is only 20 miles
away from the type locality in Bonaire and Curacao.

Discovery of *C. henriquezii* in Venezuela suggests that
the species should be reinterpreted as a native of the thorn-
scrub forest of coastal Venezuela which also reaches the dry
offshores islands, a pattern it would share with many other s-
pecies. The Dutch Islands are both geologically young and bio-
tically depauperate, and existence of this remarkably disjunct
representative of *Condalia* as an endemic there presented a
phytogeographic enigma. That *Condalia* has not been collected

previously in Venezuela is hardly surprising in view of its inconspicuous flowers and the general lack of collections in this region.

Condalia henriquezii Boldingh seems to be closely related to Condalia weberbaueri Perkins from Perú and Condalia buxifolia Reissek from Brasil. Its discovery in coastal Venezuela provide appropriate representation for the genus in all of the main areas of dry habitat in the Neotropics which might suggest a more continuous distribution of Condalia through intervening regions during periods of drier climate.

In a forthcoming paper (1980) I will present a key to the Venezuelan genera of Rhamnaceae, including Condalia. Collection data are as follows:

VENEZUELA: Falcón State, Coro, médanos 1 km. norte de la Catedral. Alt. 10 m./s.n.m. En médanos con Prosopis. Arbus to 1.5-2.5 m. de alto. Flores verdes, tornandose amarillos cuando mueren y caen. Caliz 5-m. Corola ausente. Estambres 5, alternandose con los sépalos. Gineceo 2-ocular, lóculos 1-blastos, ovúlos basales, anátropos. 19 de Abril 1978. R. Wingfield 5322 fl. (MO.); 28 de Julio 1978 R. Wingfield 5322a fr. (MO.).

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