

A NEW SPECIES OF *DAPHNOPSIS* (THYMELAEACEAE)  
FROM ECUADOR

Lorin I. Neuling, Jr.\*

*Daphnopsis occulta* Nevl., sp. nov.

Arbores ad 12 m alti, foliis 2-3 approximatis. Folia oblanceolata usque elliptica, 10-25 cm longa, 3-8 cm lata, glabra, petiolo 1-2 cm longo, glabro. Inflorescentia minuta. Flores masculi: calyx obconicus ca. 11 mm longus, 3 mm latus pubescens, calycis lobis 4 subaequalibus ca. 6 mm longis, 3 mm latis, petalis 0, staminibus 8 in planis 2, antheris oblongis ca. 1 mm longis, 0.75 mm latis, disco humili, pistillodio lageniformi. Flores feminei: calyx urceolatus ca. 10 mm longus, 1.5 mm latus pubescens, calycis lobis 4 subaequalibus ca. 1.5 mm longis, 1.25 mm latis, petalis 0, staminodiis 8 minutis in planis 2, disco humili, pistillo 1, ovario ellipsoidali ca. 2 mm longo, stigmatate capitato exserto; fructus ca. 2.5 cm longus, 1.5-2 cm latus.

Small dioecious trees to 12 m tall, the young branches glabrous; leaves simple, opposite or approximately whorled by irregular condensation of internodes, usually 3 per whorl. Leaf blades oblanceolate to broadly elliptic or very reduced and bract-like, the expanded blades 10-25 cm long, 3-8 cm broad, acute to abruptly acuminate at the apex, cuneate at the base, coriaceous, glabrous, the midvein prominent, the lateral veins arcuate-ascending, the margin slightly revolute; petiole 1-2 cm long, glabrous. Inflorescences borne from the current years' growth, extremely reduced with the flowers sessile and appearing clustered, 3-6 per inflorescence. Staminate flowers: calyx tube obconic, ca. 11 mm long, 3 mm in diameter at the orifice, white, minutely puberulent without, glabrous within; calyx lobes 4, subequal, ca. 6 mm long, 3 mm broad, glabrous within, reflexed at anthesis; petals 0; stamens 8, in two whorls, sessile, introrse, the antisepalous ones borne ca. 2 mm above the calyx tube orifice, the alternisepalous ones borne at the orifice, the anthers oblong, ca. 1 mm long, 0.75 mm broad, orange; disc cupuliform, irregularly lobed, 0.75 mm tall; pistillode lageniform, 2 mm long, glabrous. Pistillate flowers: calyx tube urceolate, ca. 10 mm long, 1.5 mm in diameter at the orifice, white, minutely puberulent without, glabrous within; calyx lobes 4, subequal, 1.5 mm long, 1.25 mm broad, glabrous within, spreading at anthesis; petals 0; staminodia 8, papilliform, in same position as stamens in staminate flowers; disc coronate, with irregular lobes, to 0.5 mm tall, glabrous; gynoecium 1, the ovary ellipsoid, 2 mm long, sparsely pubescent at the apex, the style thick, glabrous, the stigma capitate, exserted; drupe ellipsoid, ca. 2.5 cm long, 1.5-2 cm in diameter, glabrous, pale green, at most with only a remnant of the calyx tube at base.

TYPE: *ECUADOR*: Los Ríos: Río Palenque Biological Station, km 56 Road Quevedo - Sto. Domingo, alt. 150 - 220 m, *Dodson & Gentry 6548* (♂) (HOLOTYPE: MO; ISOTYPE: F, SEL).

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED: *ECUADOR*: Los Ríos: Río Palenque Biological Station, km 56 Road Quevedo - Sto. Domingo, alt. 150 - 200 m, *Dodson & Gentry 6549* (♀) (F, MO, SEL), same area, *Dodson 5818* (♀) (MO, SEL), *Dodson 5892* (♀) (MO, SEL); halfway between Quevedo and Sto. Domingo, alt. 200 m, *Gentry & Dodson 12053* (MO, SEL).

\*Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Rd. & Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60605

The size and shape of the leaves of *D. occulta* are similar to those most commonly found in the genus *Schoenobiblus*. It would be difficult to differentiate sterile specimens except for the tendency of the leaves to be more or less irregularly whorled in *D. occulta*. This peculiar leaf arrangement has been found previously in only two other species of *Daphnopsis*, *D. crassifolia* (from Hispaniola) and *D. philippiana* (from Puerto Rico). Some fruiting specimens also appear similar to specimens of *Schoenobiblus* but can be distinguished from them not only by leaf position but also by the lack of a persistent calyx tube at the base of the drupe.

Gentry has noted on the envelope containing the staminate flower that the bracts and buds turn bright turquoise when dry. This color has not been noted in any other species of *Daphnopsis*.

A peculiar member of subgenus *Daphnopsis*, which because of its extraordinarily reduced inflorescence structure, renders the flowers inconspicuous. *Daphnopsis occulta* has uncertain affinities with other members of the subgenus. It may be possible to place it with some degree of certainty when additional staminate flowering material becomes available.

