

OURATEA CATANIAPENSIS, A NEW NAME FOR *O. MEGAPHYLLA* (OCHNACEAE)

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Abstract. The new name *Ouratea cataniapoensis* (Ochnaceae) is proposed to replace the illegitimate homonym *O. megaphylla*. Chorological and taxonomic notes about these taxa also are provided.

Resumen. Se propone *Ouratea cataniapoensis* (Ochnaceae) como un nuevo nombre para reemplazar el homónimo ilegítimo *O. megaphylla* Sastre. Se incluye información corológica y taxonómica acerca de ambas especies.

Keywords: *Ouratea*, Amazonian, Ochnaceae, Peru, Venezuela

The Neotropical genus *Ouratea* Aublet, *nom. cons.*, (1775: 397) is distributed in Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, and South America. It is the most diverse genus in Ochnaceae, and is particularly diversified in the Guayana, Guiana, or Guyana Shield and the Amazon basin (Sastre, 1987b, 1988d, 1994a, 2003). The genus is notable for the wide disagreement in species numbers, ranging from 150 to 300 species (Sastre, 2004b; Berazaín-Iturralde, 2006; Fiaschi et al., 2010; Whitefoord, 2012; Amaral and Bittrich, 2014; Mabberley, 2017; Ulloa-Ulloa et al., 2017). This variation may be due to taxa that are not well established (Yamamoto et al., 2008) and the fact that many species were described in 12 different genera (e.g., *Cercouratea* Tiegh., *Gomphia* Schreb., *Isouratea* Tiegh. *Trichouratea* Tiegh.). Consequently, numerous new names and combinations have been proposed (Sastre, 1981, 1986b, 1988d, 1989, 2001; Sastre and Offroy, 2016). *Ouratea* is characterized by its remarkable leaves with the secondary veins subequal, strongly curved along the margin or unequal, some arcuate and ascending along the margin between smaller, fine, parallel, and straight veins; the petals are frequently yellow; the gynoeceum is pseudo-apocarpic, with a gynobasic style and a usually fleshy, reddish carpophore (torus) derived from the enlargement of the basal portion of the carpels. This carpophore carries 1–10 seeds, and usually erect blackish mericarps, each with a single seed (Guédès and Sastre, 1981; Yamamoto, 1989; Sastre, 2003, 2004b).

Approximately 113 species of *Ouratea* have been described in the past seven decades (Cuatrecasas, 1950; Dwyer, 1967; Rizzini, 1976; Sastre, 1981, 1986a, 1987a,b, 1988a,b,c,d, 1991, 1993, 1994b, 1995b, 1996, 2001, 2004a, 2005, 2006, 2007b; Maguire and Steyermark, 1989; Whitefoord, 1992; Yamamoto, 1995; Berazaín-Iturralde, 2003; Salvador et al., 2006; Castañeda-Noa, 2008; Yamamoto et al., 2008; Sastre and Offroy, 2009; Chacon et al., 2011; Fraga and Machado-Saavedra, 2014). Among all these species, Sastre (1996) validly published *Ouratea megaphylla* for a taxon native to the junction of the Río Pachitea and the Río Yuyapichis, south of Pucallpa,

Huânucó, in the Peruvian Amazon. Inexplicably, the same author published a new species from the Cataniapo river basin, Atures, in the Orinoquía of Venezuela, with the same epithet (Sastre, 2001). According to the International Code of Nomenclature (art. 54.1a; Turland et al., 2018), *Ouratea megaphylla* Sastre from Venezuela (Sastre, 2001) is an illegitimate homonym. The replacement name *O. cataniapoensis* Aymard is, therefore, proposed here.

Ouratea cataniapoensis Aymard, *nom. nov.*

Replaced synonym: *Ouratea megaphylla* Sastre, Novon 11: 113–115, f. 12. 2001, *non Ouratea megaphylla* Sastre, Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien, B. 98B: 573.1996, Fig. 1–2. TYPE: VENEZUELA. Amazonas. Atures: Puerto Ayacucho, río Cataniapo, entre la comunidad Las Pavas y el raudal Rabipelado, aprox. 6°25'N, 67°25'W, 11 April 1987 (fr), A. Castillo 2341 (Holotype: P, Isotype: VEN).

Paratypes: VENEZUELA. Amazonas. Atures: Puerto Ayacucho, río Cataniapo, entre la comunidad Las Pavas y el raudal Buasaujaka, aprox. 6°25'N, 67°25'W, 13 August 1986 (fl), A. Castillo 2111 (P, VEN); Atures: Puerto Ayacucho, río Cataniapo, entre el lugar de la futura represa y la comunidad de San Pedro de Cataniapo, aprox. 5°38'N, 67°11'W, 5 August 1980 (fr), F. Guánchez 111 (MO, TFAV, VEN).

Etymology: the specific epithet refers to the Cataniapo River, the basin of which is the only locality where this species hitherto has been found.

Ouratea cataniapoensis is a treelet to small tree, 5–10 m tall, with coriaceous leaves, the largest ones 35–45 × 8–12.5 cm, and terminal, paniculate inflorescences, 20–30 cm long. The species is endemic to the lowland evergreen forests located in the Cataniapo river basin, Amazonas state, Venezuela (Sastre, 2003). Sastre (2001) described this Venezuelan taxon as *O. megaphylla* without realizing he had already occupied that epithet for a Peruvian species (Sastre, 1996). The homonymy was immediately reported in *Index Kewensis* record of IPNI (2018), but treatments of the genus for the Venezuelan Guayana (Sastre, 2003), the Guianas (Sastre,

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FIGURE 1. Holotype of *Ouratea megaphylla* Sastre (Venezuela). Based on *Castillo 2341* (P 00542322).



FIGURE 2. Isotype of *Ouratea megaphylla* Sastre (Perú). Based on Morawetz & Wallnöfer 17-27985 (P 00758085).

2007a) and Ochnaceae for Venezuela (Sastre, 2008), and plant databases from the Amazon basin and the Americas (Cardoso et al., 2017; Ulloa-Ulloa et al., 2017), were not aware of this homonymy.

Both species are treelets to small trees, belong to the *Ouratea* group with large leaves (35–45 × 8–12.5 cm; e.g., *O. amplifolia* Sleumer, *O. gigantophylla* (Erhard) Engl., and *O. pulchrifolia* Ducke); longer, paniculate, terminal inflorescences; flowers always with 5 sepals and carpels; and fruits with the carpels born vertically. However, the Venezuelan taxon (*O. cataniapoensis*) differs from the

Peruvian one by its coriaceous leaves, oblong to ovate, base obtuse, margin denticulate; petiole ca. 1 cm long; petals ovate; and fruits without persistent sepals, the latter a feature that defines the section *Caducae* (Sastre, 1995a or b). In contrast, *O. megaphylla* Sastre from Peru has membranous, elliptic leaves, base shortly attenuate, margin undulate-denticulate; petiole ca. 2 cm long; petals obovate; and fruits with persistent sepals, features of the section *Ouratea* (Sastre, 1995a). This is an element endemic to the lowland evergreen forests, located Southern of Pucallpa, Huánuco, in the Amazonian region of Peru (Sastre, 1996).

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