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First record of *Oenothera kunthiana* (*Onagraceae*) for the flora of Cuba

Abstract

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Oenothera kunthiana, so far known from USA, Mexico, Mesoamerica and Brazil, is newly recorded from northeastern Cuba, Holguín province. A map of its distribution in Cuba is given.

Alain (1957, 1969) in his treatment of the *Onagraceae* gives three species, all widespread, of *Oenothera* for the flora of Cuba, viz. *O. humifusa* Nutt., *O. laciniata* Hill. and *O. rosea* L'Hér. ex Aiton. *Oenothera* is a genus of chiefly temperate America, but many of its 124 species are introduced elsewhere (Mabberley 1997).

An *Oenothera* species different from the three known ones was collected by us in the framework of the project “Visión Ambiental”, carried out in the region of Corinthia in 1999, as a weed in sugarcane fields located between the communities Carenerito Cuatro and Playa Corinthia. In May 2000 the same species was gathered near Corinthia at the entrance to Bahía de Tánamo (Tánamo Bay) in the eastern part of Playa Barrederas (Barrederas beach), in herbaceous communities. Its recollection in a different locality one year after its first collection indicates that the species has established on Cuba, although it is perhaps only a very recent introduction.

The material of the *Oenothera* species was compared with the holdings in four Cuban herbaria (HAC, HAJB, HIPC and HMC), without success. Finally, W. Wagner (United States National Herbarium) recognized the species on a specimen photograph as *O. kunthiana* (Spach) Munz.

Oenothera kunthiana is a lowland species distributed from Texas across Mexico to Guatemala (Munz 1965), but spreads according to the studies of Wagner in the USA, Mexico, Mesoamerica and Brazil (one record). On the continent it grows in open and disturbed places, by



Fig. 1. Known distribution of *Oenothera kunthiana* on Cuba; 1: between Carenerito Cuatro and Playa Corinthia; 2: surroundings of the entrance of Bahía de Tánamo.

roadsides and in cultivations, hence under largely similar conditions as in those places where we have seen and collected it in Cuba.

A voucher is deposited at HAJB under the number 79 894. The localities where the species has been collected in Cuba are shown in Fig. 1.

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