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Two new combinations in *Morella (Myricaceae)* for species of the Cuban flora

Abstract

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All Cuban representatives of *Myricaceae,* formerly treated under *Myrica* sensu lato, pertain to the segregate genus *Morella.* For two of the four Cuban species, *Myrica cacuminis* and *M. shaferi,* the required combinations do not exist as yet and are validly published here; a lectotype is designated for the latter name.

Additional key words: *Myrica,* taxonomy, Greater Antilles

Myricaceae is a small family, which has traditionally been considered to be monogeneric. Macdonald (1989) has summarised the reasons for dismembering the Linnean genus *Myrica* and his arguments have gained increased acceptance in the following years. Recent studies (Wilbur 2001; Herbert 2005; Mabberley 2008) treat the family with four genera: *Myrica* L. (temperate North America and Europe), *Morella* Lour. (pantropical), *Comptonia* L'Hér. (northeastern North America) and *Canacomyrica* Guillaumin (New Caledonia).

Several former species of *Myrica* from North America (Wilbur 1994), Africa (Killick & al. 1999), Malesia (Turner 2001), South America (Parra-O. 2002) and some from Central America and the Caribbean (Wilbur 2001; Knapp 2002) have already found their place in *Morella*. As characterised by e.g. Herbert (2005), *Morella* comprises evergreen shrubs or trees with inflorescences borne on the present year's growth and fleshy, papillose fruits; whereas *Myrica* consists of deciduous small shrubs with inflorescences borne on the previous year's growth and dry fruits with adherent spongiose bracteoles.

For the Cuban flora, León & Alain (1951) reported four species of *Myricaceae,* which they placed in *Myrica,* but which under the above criteria clearly belong in *Morella.* Two of them have already been transferred to that genus, as *M. cerifera* (L.) Small and *M. punctata* (Griseb.) J. Herb. For the two others, the required combinations do not as yet exist. They are here proposed, as follows.

Morella cacuminis (Britton & P. Wilson) Berazaín & Falcón, **comb. nov.** ≡ *Myrica cacuminis* Britton & P. Wilson in Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 50: 35. 1923. – Holotype: Cuba, Pico Turquino, July 1922, *León LS 10973* (NY 73365 [photo!]; isotypes: HAC (3×)!, US 26705 [photo!]).

Morella cacuminis can be recognised by its small elliptic, rounded to obtuse, bullate leaves with obtuse base and irregularly toothed margin, the venation being strongly impressed adaxially and prominent abaxially. It is endemic to the high mountain peaks of SE Cuba (Sierra Maestra).

Morella shaferi (Urb. & Britton) Berazaín & Falcón, **comb. nov.** ≡ *Myrica shaferi* Urb. & Britton in Urban, Symb. Antill. 7: 190. 1912. – Holotype: Cuba, Baracoa to Florida, Oriente, serpentine hills, 15.3.1910, *Shafer 4331*

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(B †). Lectotype (designated here): (NY 73366 [photo!]; isolectotype: HAC!).

Morella shaferi can be recognised by its obovate, truncate to apiculate leaves with cuneate to acute base and strongly revolute margin with but few teeth toward the apex. It is endemic to the serpentine mountains of NE Cuba.

Altogether, the Cuban species of *Morella* are four: three endemic to E Cuba (*M. cacuminis, M. shaferi* and *M. punctata* (Urb. & Britton) J. Herb.) and one neotropical, widely spread in the island (*M. cerifera* (L.) Small).

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