

SUMMARY

A new species, *Hibiscus amazonicus*, is described from the Amazon Basin. Characters distinguishing the new species from its nearest relatives are presented.

Three species of South American **Hibiscus** form a natural grouping, as yet unrecognized as a formal taxonomic group. These three species are **H. sororius** L., **H. spathulatus** Garcke, and **H. dimidiatus** Schrank. The discovery of a fourth species of this same alliance, described herein, enlarges the group to four species. In Gürke (1892) and Kearney (1957) the new species keys out (somewhat ambiguously) either to **H. sororius** or **H. verbasciformis** Klotzsch (= **H. spathulatus**), but it can be distinguished from these species by several characters, as is shown in Table 1.

HIBISCUS AMAZONICUS Fryxell, sp. nov.

Suffrutices scandentes, caulibus sparsim pubescentibus vel glabris, pilis stellatis adpressis; foliis ovatis crenatis aliquantum asymmetricis, stipulis ut videtur nullis; pedicellis 4.5 cm usque longis; bracteis involucelli ca. 6, plerumque late lanceolatis; calycibus 2-2.5 cm longis; petalis 7-8.5 cm longis erubescens; capsulis obtusis hispidis calyce inclusis; seminibus ca. 2.7 mm longis minute scabridulis.

Subshrubs, often scandent, the stems sparsely pubescent to glabrate, the hairs stellate, appressed, 0.5-1 mm diameter, 6-10-armed. Leaves ovate, simple, up to 12 cm long, slightly asymmetrical, cordate to truncate, crenate, palmately 7-nerved, mostly acute, sparsely stellate-pubescent beneath, very sparsely so above; petioles up to 5 cm long (half length of blade or less), with pubescence like that of stem but denser distally; stipules apparently absent. Pedicels solitary in leaf axils, up to 4.5 cm long, articulated 1-3 cm below flower. Bracts of involucl ca. 6, ca. half length of calyx, 11-15 mm long, broadly lanceolate or imperfectly stipitate-peltate, 3-6 mm broad, with scattered stellate hairs. Calyx ca. 2 cm long at anthesis, accrescent to 2.5 cm long in fruit, with evenly distributed stellate hairs, ca. half-divided, the lobes ovate-

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Table 1. Characters distinguishing four species of *Hibiscus*.

	<i>spathulatus</i>	<i>dimidiatus</i>	<i>sororius</i>	<i>amazonicus</i>
Stem hairs	dense, erect	dense, erect	sparse, appressed	sparse to absent, appressed
Leaf base form	cordate to subtruncate	truncate to subcordate	deeply cordate	truncate to cordate
Stipules	5 mm, linear	3-4 mm, linear	2 mm, subulate	apparently absent
Pedice! length	up to 14 cm	up to 10 cm	up to 8 cm	up to 4.5 cm
Number of bracts in involucre!	9-10	4	8-10	6
Bract shape	lanceolate to spatulate	cordate-ovate	stipitate-peltate	lanceolate or imperfectly peltate
Corolla length	5-6 cm	4-5.5 cm	4-6 cm	7-8.5 cm
Seed size	2 mm	2 mm	1.8 mm	2.7 mm
Seed vestiture	verruculate	appressed-scabridulous	striate, glabrate	appressed-scabridulous

acute, 7-11 mm broad at base at anthesis, accrescent to 15-16 mm broad in fruit. Petals 7-8.5 cm long, pink, the corolla apparently narrowly campanulate. Staminal column 4-4.5 cm long, glabrous, pallid, staminiferous more or less throughout its length, the filaments 0.5-1.5 mm long, tending to be whorled in more or less distinct tiers, the pollen orange-brown, spinulose. Styles 5, exceeding the staminal column by 1 cm, the stigmas capitate. Capsules enclosed in calyx, 5-locular, apically blunt, prominently hispid, the hairs 2-2.5 mm long. Seeds ca. 2.7 mm long, globose-reniform, brownish (the hilum blackish), minutely scabridulous, the hairs simple, appressed, and oriented toward micropylar end.

TYPES: Brasil, Amazonas, Município de Itapiranga, Rio Uatumã, 30 minutos de motor de poça, acima da cachoeira Balbina, lado direito do Rio Uatumã, próximo ao igarapé Sta. Luzia; mata de várzea; solo argiloso. Sub-arbusto; flores vistosas, arroxeadas; frutos de cor verde, imaturos e frutos passados, 16 Aug 1979, **Cid, Buck, Nelson, Almeida, Mota & Lima 386** (holotype: MG; isotypes: GH, ILL! INPA, MICH! MO, NY! US, pf!). Brasil Município de Itapiranga, Rio Uatumã, ao longo do rio, margem direita, Ilha do Bacural; mata de várzea; solo argiloso. Trepadeira com flores arroxeadas, estames brancos formando um tubo; frutos jovens amarelados, 10 Aug 1979, **Cid, Buck, Nelson, Almeida, Mota & Lima 158** (paratypes: NY! pf!).

The bracts of involucl are variable in form. They are broadly lanceolate in both duplicates of **Cid et al. 158** (NY, pf) and in the pf duplicate of **Cid et al. 386**. They tend toward the peltate form in the ILL, MICH, and NY duplicates of no. 386, but do not express the peltate form to the extreme degree that is characteristic of **H. sororius**. The variation in this character in **H. amazonicus** appears to be plant-to-plant variation within a population.

RESUMO

Uma nova espécie é descrita: *Hibiscus amazonicus* da bacia amazônica. Os atributos que distinguem a nova espécie de espécies próximas são apresentados.

References

- Gürke, M. - 1892. Malvaceae II. in: **Martius Flora Brasiliensis** 12(3):457-496.
- Kearney, T.H. - 1957. A tentative key to the South American species of **Hibiscus**. **Leaflet W. Bot.** 8:161-168.