

NOTE: NEW RECORDS FOR VENEZUELA

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ABSTRACT. Four species of Bromeliaceae are reported here for the first time for the Venezuelan Flora. These are: *Aechmea contracta* (Mart. & Schult. f.) Baker, of the Bromelioideae; *Tillandsia brachycaulos* Schldtl., *T. rhomboidea* André, and *Vriesea sanguinolenta* Cogn. & Marchal, of the Tillandsioideae.

RESUMEN. Cuatro especies de Bromeliaceae se registran para Venezuela por primera vez. Estas son: *Aechmea contracta* (Mart. & Schult. f.) Baker, de las Bromelioideae; *Tillandsia brachycaulos* Schldtl., *T. rhomboidea* André y *Vriesea sanguinolenta* Cogn. & Marchal de las Tillandsioideae.

Aechmea contracta (Mart. & Schult. f.) Baker, J. Bot. 17: 234. 1879. *Billbergia contracta* Mart. & Schult. f. in Roemer & Schultes, Syst. 7(2): 1263. 1830.

SPECIMEN EXAMINED. Amazonas: Departamento Río Negro, bosque húmedo tropical bajo-ralo, 1–2 km al E de San Carlos de Río Negro por la carretera hacia Solano, 100–120 m, Diciembre 1987, *Carnevali & I. Ramírez 2759* (VEN).

Previously known from the Amazon Basin in Colombia, Guyana, Brazil, and Peru.

Tillandsia brachycaulos Schldtl., Linnæa 18: 422. 1844.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Aragua: Maracay, Jardines de la Facultad de Agronomía de la UCV, 450 m, 15 Agosto 1988, *Carnevali & I. Ramírez 2739*, (VEN); Ocumare de la Costa, bosque seco tropical atmosféricamente seco, 0–50 m, 26 Enero 1986, *Carnevali, I. Ramírez & Fleming 1989* (VEN); 4–5 km NE de Tejerías, Autopista Caracas-Valencia, bosque seco premontano, 400–500 m, 7 Marzo 1986, *Carnevali & I. Ramírez 2003* (VEN). Bolívar: Distrito Páez, La Grulla, 6 km al SE de Upata, bosque semidecídúo, 340 m, Julio 1978, *Delascio & Liesner 6830* (VEN).

This species was previously known only from Central America, from Mexico to Panama. It is to be expected in Colombia. *Tillandsia brachycaulos* is another instance of a basically Caribbean or Central American member of the genus that reaches its southernmost limit in Venezuela. Other examples are *Tillandsia fasciculata* Swartz, *T. balbisiana* Schultes f., *T. flexuosa* Swartz, and *T. juncea* (Ruíz & Pavón) Poiret. *Tillandsia brachycaulos* is widespread and locally common in Venezuela, but has been overlooked by previous plant collectors since it looks like a sterile plant of something like *T. variabilis* Schldtl., especially

since the bracts of the Venezuelan populations are not as brightly colored as the Central American populations.

Tillandsia rhomboidea André, Enum. Bromél. 6. 13 Dec 1888; Revue Hort. 60: 566. 16 Dec 1888.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Aragua: Parque Nacional Henry Pittier, Rancho Grande, carretera a Ocumare de la Costa, vertiente norte, selva nublada, aprox. 10°19'N, 67°43'W, ca. 1,100 m, December 1989, *Carnevali & I. Ramírez 2824* (VEN). Falcón: Sierra de San Luis, alt. 1,200 m, 11 Mayo 1973, *Medina s/n* (VEN); La Cumbre, en parte mas alta de carretera de Ciénaga-Curimagua, alt. 1,200–1,400 m, 25 November 1971, *Rutkis 257* (VEN). Táchira: Río San Buena, 10 km East of La Fundación, primary forested areas around Represa Dorada, forest evergreen, soils tending to be sandy derived from metamorphic rock (schist or gneiss), 700–1,000 m alt, 7°47'–48'N, 71°46'–47'W, 13–15 March 1980, *Liesner, González & Smith 9590* (VEN).

This species is frequently confused in herbaria with the more common *Tillandsia fasciculata*. *Tillandsia rhomboidea* is a smaller plant with less showy inflorescence. It also tends to occur at higher elevations than *T. fasciculata*, usually in humid or cloud forests, while *T. fasciculata* is more commonly a species of lower, drier localities.

Tillandsia rhomboidea ranges from Costa Rica to Venezuela. In Central America it has been known by the synonym *T. acostae* Mez & Tonduz. In Venezuela the species has been collected in the Sierra de San Luis and in Estado Táchira, both in the western sector of the country, and in Parque Nacional Henry Pittier, Estado Aragua, in the central section of the Coastal Range in northern Venezuela. We have also collected and cultivated plants of this species from Parque Nacional Guatopo, Estado Miranda, at 500–600 m.

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Vriesea sanguinolenta Cogn. & Marchal, Pl. Ornem. pl. 52. 1874; André, Ill. Hort. 22: 44, pl. 200. 1875.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED. Táchira: Primary forest, SE facing slopes of Cerro Cuchilla La Pabellana, W of San Joaquina de Navay, lat. 7°37'30"N, long. 71°47'W, 6 November 1979, *Steyermark, Liesner & González 119447* (MO, VEN).

This species is also locally common as a high epiphyte in the Reserva Forestal Ticoporo, Estado Barinas, at 100–200 m. Plants of this locality are in cultivation, but no vouchers have

been made. *Vriesea sanguinolenta* was previously known from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

LITERATURE CITED

SMITH, L. B. 1971. Bromeliaceae in T. Lasser (ed.) *Flora de Venezuela*, Vol. 21 (1): 277–343. Instituto Botánico, Caracas, Venezuela.