RESURRECTION OF THE MAUI ENDEMIC WALThERIA PYROLIFOLIA (STERCULIACEAE, HERMANNIEAE)

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Old and new morphological characters confirm that Waltheria pyrolifolia is abundantly distinct from W. indica s.l., not its synonym, nor teratological material of it. The first illustrations of W. pyrolifolia are presented. It is here IUCN global category assessed as critically endangered, tagged possibly extinct. The earliest lectotypifications of W. indica and W. americana, realized by Gillis in 1974, are clarified.

Keywords. Maui, taxonomy, Waltheria, Wilkes Expedition.


Caracteres morfológicos viejos y nuevos confirman que Waltheria pyrolifolia es una especie distinta, y no un sinónimo o material teratológico de W. indica. Se presentan por primera vez ilustraciones de W. pyrolifolia. Su categoría de conservación a nivel global es evaluada como en peligro crítico de extinción, posiblemente extinguida. Se esclarece que las lectotipificaciones más antiguas para W. indica y para W. americana fueron realizadas por Gillis en 1974.

Palabras clave. Expedición de Wilkes, Maui, taxonomía, Waltheria.

INTRODUCTION

Waltheria L. is comprised of 60 subtropical to tropical species, 53 spp. limited to America, 6 spp. limited to the paleotropics, and 1 species pantropical. Paleotropical species are respectively endemic to Australia (W. virgata Ewart & Cookson), the Islas Marquesas and Society Islands (W. tomentosa (J.R. & G. Forster) St. John), Madagascar (W. madagascariensis Hochreutiner), West Africa (W. lanceolata R. Brown ex Masters in Oliver) or Hainan and Malaysia (W. arenaria Ridley). The genus occurs as obligate heliophytes in semiarid zones in savannas sensu lato, including coastal or riverine dunes and thorn-scrub.

Major taxonomic revisions coincide with its regions of highest diversity and endemism: the Brazilian species revised by Saint-Hilaire (1825), by Schumann (1886), and by Saunders (1995); the Mexican ones revised by Rose (1899), by Standley (1923), and by Saunders (1993, 1995). Other less extensive treatments were made by de Carvalho & da Vinha (1983); Berry et al. (2007), Saunders (2005, 2007); Verdcourt (1995), Cristóbal et al. (1995, 2005); Cristóbal (1998); Cristóbal & Saunders (2006, 2008); Saunders and Pozner (2007) and Amorim et al. (2009). Only two sections have been formally described for the genus (Schumann, 1886), resulting in the segregation of three species under sect. Stegowaltheria.

Up to now, either two or one Waltheria species have been considered to occur in Hawaii: W. indica L., and W. pyrolifolia A. Gray. In the course of the first monograph for the genus Waltheria it was necessary to re-examine the status of W. pyrolifolia. The aim of this work is to evaluate considering
W. pyrolifolia as either a distinct species and very restricted local endemic to Maui in the Hawaiian Islands (Gray, 1854; Müller, 1857; Hillebrand, 1888; Mann, 1867; Drake de Castillo 1890; Degener, 1935; St. John, 1973; Saunders, 1993, 1995) or as a synonym of pantropical W. indica (St. John, 1976, 1985; Wagner et al., 1990, 1999).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

All of the original material of Waltheria pyrolifolia that was studied by both Gray and St. John has been re-examined and compared to representative material of W. indica from Hawaii. Waltheria pyrolifolia specimens were borrowed from GH, US, and P. No additional examples of W. pyrolifolia were located by consultations to or monograph loans from A, ARIZ, B, BAB, BHCB, BISH, BKL, BM, BR, C, CAS-DS, CAY, CEPEC, CTES, DAV, DNA, E, F, FCQ, G, GUA, HAL, HB, HUEFS, INPA, JE, K, KW, LE, LIL, LK, LPB, M, MA, MBM, MEXU, MICH, MO, MPU, MSC, NY, PH, PR, PTBG, RB, S, SI, SING, SP, SPF, TEX, TI, U, UCR, UFMT, UPBC, UPS, and W. Herbaria are listed according to acronyms given in Index Herbariorum (Thiers, 2010).

Hawaiian material of Waltheria indica was verified in loans from BISH. The plants of W. indica s.l. from Kanaha Beach, near the type locality of W. pyrolifolia, were used to illustrate W. indica. Leaf, floral and fruit characters were examined with a Wild Heerbrugg M4A dissecting microscope with camera lucida (CL) attachment. Micrographs were made with a Nikon Digital Sight DS Fi1 mounted on a Nikon SMZ 800 Microscope. Leaf shapes follow Radford et al. (1974), modified from SACDBT (1962a, b). Stigma types follow Schumann (1886). Only characters found to differ between the two species are given here.

RESULTS

Many of Gray’s characters (1854) were confirmed to be distinguishing between Waltheria pyrolifolia and W. indica in Hawaii; most of them are listed in italics in Table 1, with new characters non-italicized, and shown in Figure 1. Capsule type, stigma type, calyx venation type and seed type, which are important grouping characters sensu Saunders (1995), are different between the two species. The striae along veins of abaxial leaf surfaces, the nearly simple stigma, and the petals slightly cucullate and 8-nerved from the base in W. pyrolifolia were found to be its four unique characters within the genus (Figs. 2 and 3). Together, all these characters indicate there is a very significant difference between W. pyrolifolia and W. indica.

My results concur with Asa Gray’s opinion upon founding Waltheria pyrolifolia that it is abundantly distinct from W. indica s.l. (Gray, 1854). Gray considered his new species to be perhaps only closely related to W. tomentosa (J.R. & G. Forst.) H. St. John (as W. lophanthus G. Forst.).

To combine Waltheria indica and W. pyrolifolia, St. John (1976) mostly used leaf shape and its adaxial surface being "nearly glabrous" in some W. indica, vs. "subglabrate" adaxial leaf vestiture attributed to W. pyrolifolia. This is complicated by the presence of misidentified species mixed in with material of W. indica s.l. in global herbarium material. In this study, W. indica adaxial leaf vestiture was found to be sparsely to densely pubescent rather than nearly glabrous, and often densely pubescent, tomentose or velutinous. Leaf apices and lamina shape can be used in the field to discriminate between these species for most cases (Table 1).

Wagner et al. (1990) noted the different leaves of Waltheria pyrolifolia saying it "apparently was described from an aberrant leaf form of one collection." A hypothesis derived from their observation that the type specimen of W. pyrolifolia could represent abnormal floral material of W. indica caused by disease or insect damage previously reported for W. indica in Brazil and Africa (Schumann, 1886; Scott, 1978; Verdoorn, 1981; Thulin, 1998; Cheek and Dorr, 2007) and personally observed from Africa and Australia can be discarded. Characteristic features illustrated or described for abnormal material of W. indica (Schumann, 1886; Scott, 1978; Verdoorn, 1981; Thulin, 1998) were: cymes heteromorphic, calyces unordered, half (Scott, 1978; Verdoorn, 1981; Thulin, 1998) of the normal nearly completely fused stamen filament fusion lengths, a stipitate distended arcuate pistil, ovary abnormally shaped and stigma composite-nodular. Stamen and free filament lengths are sometimes variable within a single flo-
**Table 1.** Characters that distinguish *Waltheria pyrolifolia* from *W. indica* s.l. in Hawaii. Characters in italics are equal or similar to those of Gray (1854). See Fig.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character Description</th>
<th><em>Waltheria pyrolifolia</em></th>
<th><em>Waltheria indica</em> s.l.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEAVES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonly both retuse at apex and nearly as broad or broader than long in obovate, elliptic or ovate series, mature apices never acute or obtuse. Length/width ratio (1.2)1.1-0.8:1</td>
<td>Never retuse, apices acute, emarginate, usually obtuse or rounded; usually much longer than broad. Length/width ratio (4.0)2.9-1.0(0.8):1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaxial surface <em>soon subglabrate</em> in most areas but apex and base</td>
<td>Densely to sparsely stellate pubescent, tomentose, or velutinous throughout</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Coriaceous</em> in age, castaneous dried</td>
<td>Chartaceous, olive, red-olive or umber dried</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FLOWERS</strong></td>
<td>Ca. 8 mm diam., presumably distylous, pin-like</td>
<td>4-6 mm diam., homostylous, stamens and pistil sub-equal in length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALYX LOBES</strong></td>
<td>Adjacent lobes contiguous, lobe tips concolorous, interlobe sinus absent when petals imbricate, unopen; <em>never hirsute</em></td>
<td>Adjacent lobes free, lobe tips free, red, not contiguous, with interlobe sinus obtangular; hirsute or so on veins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALYX LOBES</strong></td>
<td>lanceolate, broadly linear, the apex acute nearly obtuse</td>
<td>Triangular-acuminate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CALYX LOBES</strong></td>
<td>Non-areolate between costal veins</td>
<td>Areolate between costal veins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PETAL</strong></td>
<td>Obovate with base widely cuneate</td>
<td>Unguiculate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5-1.7 mm wide</td>
<td>0.7-1.4 mm wide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slightly cucullate</td>
<td>± flat, incurved sides</td>
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<tr>
<td>Claw undifferentiated, broad (0.3-0.5 mm) at base, 8-nerved from base</td>
<td>Claw long and slender, 0.9-1.5 x 0.2 mm, 1-3 nerved from base</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STAMENS</strong></td>
<td>Connate only at the base</td>
<td>Connate most of length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tube short, 0.2-1.0 mm, segmenting in age</td>
<td>Tube long, 1.5-3.2 mm, integral</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Free filaments long, 0.9-3.6 mm long</td>
<td>Free filaments very short, 0.1-0.5 mm long</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.5 mm long, superseding stamens by 0.7-1.7 mm (pins)</td>
<td>3.3-3.4 mm long, ± level to stamens, longer by 0.3-0.5 mm (homostyles)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stigma nearly simple, 0.1-0.2 x 0.1-0.4 mm, denticulate or scant papillose</td>
<td>Stigma penicillate, dissipate-penicillate, plumose, 0.8-1.1 x 0.6-1.1 mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Style excentric, 2.6-3.8 x 0.1 mm, arachnoid-villous</td>
<td>Style lateral, 1.2-1.3 x 0.3 mm, stellate-tomentose</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
J. G. SAUNDERS. *Waltheria pyrolifolia* in the Hawaiian Islands

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

*Waltheria pyrolifolia* is herein resurrected to distinct species status and removed from synonymy with *W. indica* s.l. conferred by St. John (1976), and followed by Wagner et al. (1990, 1999).


Leaves widely obovate to widely depressed obovate, widely elliptic to oblade, widely ovate-circular, very widely ovate to widely depressed ovate, length/width ratios 1.2-0.8:1; apices commonly retuse, sometimes rounded; crenate-dentate; leaves when yet unfolded adaxially subglabrous, with minute glandular hairs throughout, pubescent and tomentose over teeth, and puberulent here and there on surface, pubescent from a few teeth apices, tufted on midvein and some secondary veins, when newly unfolded adaxially subglabrate except at apex and base; abaxially pubescent (rays planar), golden-tomentellous, later glabrate, glabrescent, gray trichomes, with primary to fifth order veins raised; white striae (wax?) along veins. Stipules narrowly triangular. Calyx lobes contiguous and without sinuses while in bud, later lanceolate, broadly linear, silky short villulose. Petals of unknown color fresh, dark castaneous dried, pale-pustulate, thickened, obovate, slightly cucullate, concave; petal base adnate to stamen tube base for 0.2 mm and 0.3-0.5 mm wide; nerves thick, eight from base to apex, basally contiguous where 0.3-0.4 mm wide. Stamens of uneven lengths within flower. Capsule utricle-like but loculicidal, partially dehiscent ventrally at apex and dorsally at apex, retaining seed; endocarp coriaceous, only near suture slightly sclerified.

**Distribution and habitat.** Known only from the type collections. The only habitat known (Sand hills) consists of calcareous lithified dunes, used for grazing then (Wilkes, 1856) so that it may have been introduced locally. The species has never been relocated at the type locality though recently searched for by local botanists. More rigorous searches in Maui are necessary. New localities or other types for it have not appeared in herbarium searches either (see acknowledgments).

**Conservation assessment.** Using the Guidelines for the IUCN Red List Categories (IUCN Standards and Petitions Working Group, 2008), *Waltheria pyrolifolia* lies within the critically endangered (CR) global conservation category, and should be tagged possibly extinct. This is by
criteria D, subcategory D1 (< 50 individuals) or D2 (number of locations only 1 with area of occupancy < 20 sq. km) both apply. A total population estimated to number less than 50 mature individuals is inferred by its being collected from only one locality and not seen there or elsewhere for over 150 years. Development and removal of the regionally
scarce resource, sand, necessary for construction has reduced available habitat areas for this species. According to Forest Starr, "one of the last remnants of the consolidated lithified dunes formed

Fig. 2. *Waltheria pyrolifolia*. A, habit. B, abaxial leaf margin, striae on veins. C, abaxial stamen. D, capsule, skewed lateral view, with partial ventral and dorsal (apical only) dehiscence, only partial ventral dehiscence shown. E, seed, skewed lateral view. F, flower: calyx lobe and petal attitudes when fresh are presumed. G-H, petals (rehydrated) in lateral profile, in natural attitude (G) and flattened adaxial view (H). From GH isotype, A-F drawn by Piero Delprete, G-H drawn by Francisco Rojas.
that used to stretch from Waihee to Waikapu" (about 16 km distance), "that includes the historical locality ‘sand hills of Wailuku’ is found in Keopuolani Sand Dunes in the Keopuolani Regional Park in Wailuku, Maui." That quote and an aerial photograph taken by Forest Starr, selecting...
Keopuolani Sand Dunes, are available on the website: http://www.hear.org/naturalareas/keopuolani/index.html. That dune is estimated to be less than 1 sq. km. Lithified dunes near Wailuku from Waihee Beach Park, Keopuolani Park, and the Kahului Community Center in West Maui can be reviewed from the HEAR site (http://www.hear.org/starr/images/search/?q=lithified&o=plants).

Etymology and Nomenclature. The orthographic correction of Waltheria pyrolifolia A. Gray, that K. Gandhi interpreted as being formed from the genus Pyrola, genitive form Pyrolae, has been made in IPNI by Gandhi in 2008 (pers. comm., Gandhi; IPNI online).


Distribution and habitat. Subtropical and tropical zones worldwide. For Hawaii, it is given in Wagner et al. (1990).

Observations. The species is in need of revisionary study (Bahadur & Srikanth, 1983; Cristóbal et al., 2005).

Representative specimens examined

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Hawaii. Hawaii Co.: Hawaii Is.: Hawaii National Park, Kiluea, 1868 erack, 16-III-1939, Judd & Christ s.n. (BISH 497314); Honolulu Co.: Oahu Is.: Makapuu Point, 8-X-1926, Degener & Horner 7119 (BISH); Kahakaulana Is., Keelh Lagoon, 30-IV-1978, Herbst & Walker 6077 (BISH); Kauai Co.: Lēhua Is.: 18-20-IV-1931, Caum 3 (BISH); Niihau Is.: N. Kona Cliff, 1-1912, Stokes s.n. (BISH 70281); Maui Co.: Lanai Is.: Awalua, +75 ft., 22-III-1961, Kondo 4 (BISH); Palawai, 1150 ft, Munro 367 (BISH); Koele, VI-1913, Forbes 175.L (BISH); Kahoolawe Is.: central plateau, 250-450 m, 13-II-1931, Bryan, Jr. 722 (BISH); Smugglers Cove, 26-XI-1978, Char 78,085 (BISH); 10-II-10-III-1913, Stokes et al. s.n. (BISH 70312); cut slopes, Kanapou Bay, Stokes s.n., ex parte, (BISH 70728A); Maui Island: Waiopai, S slope of Haleakala, 5-III-1920, Forbes 1852.M (BISH); Waihee, W side of Kahului, dunes, 16-X-1974, Fosberg 55610 (BISH); W Maui, near Papawai Point, 50 ft., 28-VI-1969, Henrickson 3806 (BISH); W Maui, Huul Island, Kahakuloa, 20-VIII-1981, Kepler 37 (BISH); Molokini Islet: slopes, 100-120 ft., 13-VIII-1925, Palmer 5 (BISH); E Maui, Kanaha Beach, 5-III-2006, Starr & Starr 060305-01 (BISH); Molokini Islet, 10-II-1913, Stokes et al. s.n. (BISH 70279); Kahului, Kanaha Beach, 1 m, 6-IV-2006, Wood et al. 11821 (PTBG image); Molokai Is.: near Hakina Gulch, 26-IV-1928, Degener 7117 (BISH); Mapulehu Valley, near mouth, dry hillside, 75 m, 31-XII-1936, Fosberg 13532 (BISH); Co. or Is. Unknown: SANDWICH ISLANDS [Hawaiian Islands]: Capt. C. Wilkes s.n., 1838-1842, (US no. 00013147, Barcode 595768, image).

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