

Disease Notes

First Report of *Arceuthobium hondurense* in Oaxaca, Mexico

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Honduran dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium hondurense* Hawksw. & Wiens) has only been found in four locations in Honduras: west of Zamorano, east of Lepaterique, Cusuco National Park, and Celaque National Park (1,2). At one time it was believed that this mistletoe could be in danger of extinction (1). However, it has also been reported in two locations in Chiapas, Mexico (3). In December 2000, ≈1 km north of Suchixtepec, Oaxaca, Mexico, near Route 175 (elevation 2,770 m), we collected a dwarf mistletoe parasitizing *Pinus tecunumanii* (Schw.) Eguiluz et Perry that was morphologically similar to *A. hondurense* (1). This population initially had been classified as *A. nigrum* Hawksw. & Wiens (1), but is now classified as *A. hondurense* based on morphology (male flower color and stigma length) (1) and analysis of nuclear rDNA internal transcribed spacer (ITS) sequences from Honduras (GenBank Accession No. AF325969) and Oaxaca (GenBank Accession No. AY055215). A comparison of these two *A. hondurense* ITS sequences indicated they are very closely related to each other, whereas both are distinct from *A. nigrum* (GenBank Accession No. L25693). Specimens of *A. hondurense* from Oaxaca were deposited at the Deaver Herbarium, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff. To our knowledge, this is the first report of *A. hondurense* in Oaxaca, Mexico, and extends its known distribution west across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec from central Chiapas by ≈400 km.

References: (1) F. G. Hawksworth and D. Wiens. Dwarf Mistletoes: Biology, Pathology, and Systematics. USDA Agric. Handb. 709, 1996. (2) R. Mathiasen et al. *Phytologia* 85:268, 1998. (3) R. Mathiasen et al. *Plant Dis.* 85:444, 2001.