

Disease Notes

First Report of *Arceuthobium hondurense* in Mexico

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Honduran dwarf mistletoe (*Arceuthobium hondurense* Hawksw. & Wiens) is a rare dwarf mistletoe previously known only from Honduras (1,2). In March 2000 we collected a dwarf mistletoe from approximately 7 km west of San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico near Route 190 (elevation 2,440 m), which was morphologically similar to *A. hondurense* (1). This population had initially been classified as *A. nigrum* Hawksw. & Wiens (1). However, our morphological measurements and analysis of nuclear rDNA ITS sequences of *A. hondurense* plants from Honduras (GenBank No. AF325969) and the plants from Chiapas (AF325970) have confirmed that the Chiapan population is *A. hondurense* and not *A. nigrum*. An additional population of *A. hondurense* was discovered in Chiapas approximately 11 km west of Oxchuc near Route 186 (elevation 2160 m). Both of the Chiapan populations of *A. hondurense* were parasitizing *Pinus tecunumanii* (Schw.) Eguluz et Perry. Specimens of *A. hondurense* from Chiapas were deposited at the Deaver Herbarium, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff. This is the first report of *A. hondurense* in Mexico and extends its known distribution from northwestern Honduras (3) by approximately 500 km. Although *A. hondurense* has not been observed in the pine forests of Guatemala, it is probable that it also occurs there (1).

References: (1) F. G. Hawksworth and D. Wiens. 1996. Dwarf Mistletoes: Biology, Pathology, and Systematics. USDA Agric. Handb. 709. (2) R. Mathiasen et al. *Phytologia* 36:211, 1998. (3) R. Mathiasen et al. *Plant Dis.* 84:372, 2000.

Cited by

Distribution of Dwarf Mistletoes (*Arceuthobium* spp., Viscaceae) in Durango, Mexico

Robert L. Mathiasen, M Socorro González Elizondo, Martha González Elizondo, Brian E. Howell, I Lorena López Enriquez, Jared Scott, and Jorge A. Tena Flores, *Madroño* Apr 2008, Volume 55, Number 2, 161-169