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Rediscovery of *Jaltomata biflora* in Peru

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During the systematic revision of *Jaltomata* by T.M. and associates, *J. biflora* has been known only by the type specimens collected by Donbey in the late 1700s, and the misleading illustration (tab. 179a) in Ruiz and Pavón's (1799) original description. We were unable to attribute with confidence any of the Peruvian specimens borrowed from F, GH, K, MO, NY, US, WIS to this species, because all borrowed specimens lack the urceolate corolla having a rotate limb of narrowly triangular lobes, evident on the holotype (P). The phototypes (F neg. 29720 at GH and WIS) of the isotype (MA, not seen) lack flowers and fruits. Benítez (1976) was apparently unaware of the holotype when she created the new combination *J. biflora* (Ruiz & Pavón) Benítez because she designated as the lectotype the MA specimen.

As part of his senior thesis D. M. set out to determine if this species is extant, and if so, if it may be threatened by habitat destruction. Our first clue to finding the plant was the locality "huasa-huasi" on the label of the types and "Huasa-huassi" in the original description. Huasahuasi is a small town in Peru, Dept. Junín, Prov. Tarma. Ruiz (1793) listed *Sarracha biflora* among the species discovered near Tarma (the closest city to Huasahuasi), so we now had a vague type locality.

After traveling by public bus to Huasahuasi in late May of this year, D. M. hired a farmer familiar with the flora of the area to serve as a guide. They ascended a nearby mountain on foot and found *Jaltomata biflora*, a suffrutescent sprawling shrub, twice along the trail at approximately 3,000 meters of elevation. Pressed specimens having flowers and fruits were made (*D. Mugaburu* 5 and 6), one of which will be deposited

at MO.

The corolla, 1.3 cm long, matches the holotype perfectly, being green and urceolate with a narrow mouth and broader base 1.4 cm wide. The rotate limb is comprised of five narrowly triangular lobes alternating with the five inconspicuous lobules. Red nectar was not observed. We thought that red nectar might be produced because a species with similar corolla morphology, *J. ventricosa*, produces abundant red nectar (see "*Jaltomata*: An Introduction ...", p. 51, this issue). The stamens and style are exerted beyond the mouth of the corolla as on the holotype. The abundant seeds (e.g., 161 and 166 per fruit, two fruits) were harvested to grow plants in Connecticut.

The local name was given as "tomatillo cimarrón" in the original description, as "tomate cimarrón" on the isotype, but locals now call it "capuli silvestre" and "capuli de campo." Ruiz (1793) mentioned that fruits were eaten by children, and at this collection the guide said that fruits were occasionally eaten when they were found along the hillsides, and that the plants are grazed by livestock.

Although the slopes of the mountains surrounding Huasahuasi are grazed and have been extensively cleared for cultivation, this species appears to not be rare, perhaps because it tolerates disturbance.

Basionym and Synonyms:

Basionym: *Sarracha biflora* Ruiz & Pavón, Fl. Peruv. et Chil. 2: 42. tab. 179a. 1799.

Bellinia biflora (Ruiz & Pavón) Roemer & Schultes, Syst. Veg. 4: 689. 1819.

Witheringia biflora (Ruiz & Pavón) Miers, Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist., second series, 11: 92. 1853. Illustr. S. Amer. Pl. 2: App. 56. 1857.

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