

A note on *Nectandra* (Lauraceae), with the description of a new species

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Abstract

The author describes a new species of Lauraceae from Amazonia, *Nectandra spumea* Kubitzki sp. n., and gives critical comments on the possible distinctions among the genera *Ocotea*, *Nectandra* and *Pleurothyrium*, especially between the first two.

The species described in this paper is somewhat intermediate between the genera *Nectandra* and *Ocotea*. The principal character for separating these large genera is the position of the anther cells which in the latter genus are arranged in pairs above each other, and in the former in an arc. Kostermans (1952: 149; 1957: 232) does not consider this difference as sufficient for generic separation and combines the two genera together with *Pleurothyrium*, maintaining however, subgeneric status for all of them. Bernardi (1962: 96, 184) agrees with Kostermans that with regard to certain species the separation of the genera *Ocotea* and *Nectandra* indeed is difficult, and that the character used for their separation, namely the arrangement of the anther cells, is not of great taxonomic importance. However, for pragmatic reasons, (size and importance of the two genera; relative ease in recognizing most species of *Nectandra* even in the field), Bernardi prefers to keep them distinct, while supporting the inclusion of *Pleurothyrium* in *Ocotea*.

My personal view (supported by the recent studies of bark and wood anatomy by Richter, 1980) is that all three genera, irrespective to their size difference, are extremely diverse, and the smallest one, *Pleurothyrium*, may well be the most heterogeneous one, being kept together only by the existence of triglandulate stamens of whorls I-III. The core of *Nectandra*, on the other hand, is a very homogeneous assemblage characterized, i. a., by the

presence of arcuately nerved leaves covered with a dense and minute indumentum, and by reflexed, papillose tepals. There are, however, several species which vegetatively and even with regard to floral characters come close to *Ocotea* but maintain the arc-like position of the anther cells (at least in the outer stamen whorl), as the species described in the present paper and *Nectandra rubriflora* (Mez) Allen, discussed and figured by Bernardi (1967).

It is more than questionable whether a satisfactory separation of the two large genera *Ocotea* and *Nectandra* can be reached by relying on one character only; what seems possible and necessary to me is to define naturally circumscribed entities to which possibly subgeneric rank could be given by taking into consideration all potential characters. What can be predicted with certainty is the disappearance of the genus *Pleurothyrium* since its species partly belong to what at present is *Ocotea*, partly is *Nectandra*.

Nectandra spumea Kubitzki, nov. spec.

Type: Brazil. Amazonas. Upper rio Negro region, rio Tea, ca. 40 km above mouth; tree in flooded blackwater forest, ca. 3 m high, trunk 8 cm diam., crown very broad: K. Kubitzki, H. H. Poppendieck & C. Calderon 79-231, fl, y fr (INPA; isot.: HBG, IAN, M, RB, US).

Arbor ca. 3 m alta; ramuli novelli puberuli mox glabrescentes; cicatrices depresso-ovatae; gemmae terminales inconspicuae, sericeae. Folia spiraliter inserta, ad extremos ramulorum congesta, subcoriacea, lanceolata vel obovato-lanceolata, apice rotundata vel obtusa, nonnumquam brevissime (per 1-2 mm) acuminata, margine plana incrassata, basi acuta et in petiolum angustata, penninervia, utrimque glabra, supra nitida, subtus opaca, 4-7 cm longa et 1,5-3 cm lata, nervis adscen-

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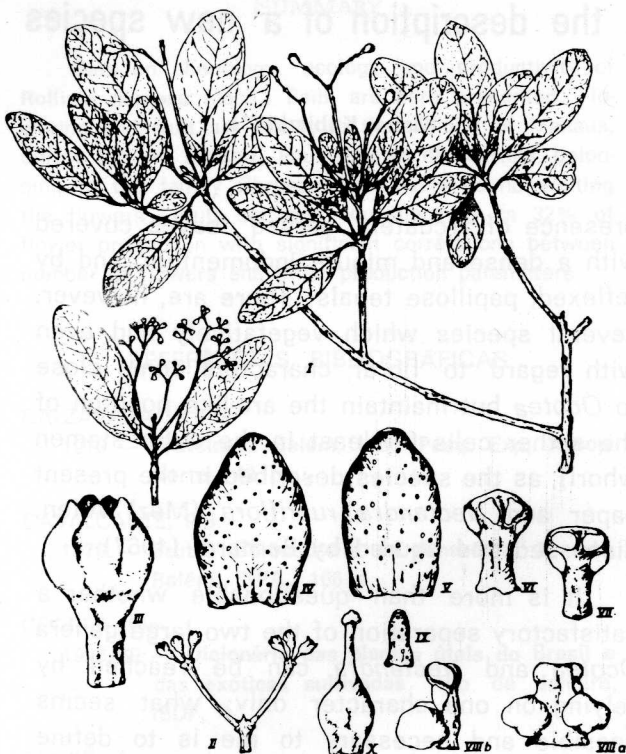


Fig. 1 — *Nectandra spumea* (from type). I, habit, x 1/3; II, distal part of inflorescence, x 1.25; III, flower, x 9; IV, V, outer and inner tepal, ventral side; VI, VII, stamens of whorl I and II, ventral side; VIII, stamen of whorl III, a, dorsal view, b, lateral view; IX, staminode of whorl IV; X, pistil; IV-X x 18.

dentibus 7-9 paribus praeter marginem confluentibus venisque reticulatis praedita; petioli semiteretes, minutissime puberuli, 0.6-1 cm longi. Paniculae solitariae in axillis folium subapicalium dispositae, glabrae, ca. 4 cm longae, pedunculis 3-4 cm longis apice dichasiis instructis et bracteis fugacissimis ca. 1 mm longis lanceatis praeditae; flores hermaphroditi, ovoidei, glabri, ca. 2.5 mm longi et 2 mm lati; tubus latus, interne sericeus; tepala acuta, 1.5 mm longa, interne pellucido-punctata, basi setosa aliter glabra, anthesi erecta; stamina

glabra, ca. 0.7 mm longa, exteriora introrsa filamentis angustioribus longicribisque quam antheris praedita, verticilli I antheris late obtusis locellis 4 arcuatim dispositis verticilli II antheris truncatis locellis in paribus superpositis praedita, verticilli III antheris haud in filamentis constrictis biglandulosis locellis lateralibus superpositis praedita, staminodia verticilli IV stipitifolia, 0.4 mm longa, ventraliter sulcata, glabra; pistillum glabrum, 1.2 mm longum, ovario ellipsoideo stylo aequante stigmate inconspicuo praeditum. Fructus solitarii in infructescentibus, bacca ellipsoidea, immatura viridis, ca. 1 mm longa, per 1/3 in cupula turbinata rubra ca. 0.8 cm longa immersa.

This tree contains in its leaves a striking foamy substance alluded to in the specific epithet.

Resumo

O autor descreve uma nova espécie de Lauraceae da Amazônia, *Nectandra spumea* Kubitzki sp. n., e tece comentários críticos sobre as possíveis distinções dos gêneros *Ocotea*, *Nectandra* e *Pleurothyrium*, em especial dos dois primeiros.

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