



Corryocactus erici-marae Cieza, a new species of Peru

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PRESENTATION:

The genus *Corryocactus* has an ample distribution especially to the South of Peru with the exception of *Corryocactus chachapoyensis*, which is found further north of the country. However, in 2000, I discovered some plants in the Caserío (hamlet) of Lic Lic, district of José Manuel Quiroz, in the Province of San Marcos, Cajamarca, which intrigued me. Thus, I began to lead investigations to be able to determine this species. As soon as the existing descriptions were consulted, I realized that these were poor and not very clear, because lack of data, especially on flowers, so I just stayed with the obsessive mysterious identity of this taxon.

I took a journey with Alfred Lau with Alfred Lau up to Cajamarca to the Caserío of Nueva Esperanza in San Marcos, to show him the habitat of *Matucana huagalensis*, as well as this Cactaceae. Having seen it, he said to me that it was, according to him, probably a new species; so, I carried out more journeys to accumulate field data, so being able to compare this taxon with the already described species.

Afterward, I found other habitats near San Marcos, in the districts of Pedro Gálvez and José Sabogal, between years 2000 and 2002. During a journey to the city of Cajamarca continuing with my investigations on Cactaceae, I found two habitats, one in the district of Namora (2004) and the other one in the district of Baños del Inca (2009).

At these last places, I ended my investigations and comparisons with the description of the other species of this genus and arrived at the conclusion that I was dealing with a new species, which we found with an ample distribution in the South of the department of Cajamarca.



DESCRIPTION:

Corryocactus erici-marae Cieza sp. nova

Plant with decumbent habit, having a napiform root from which are born cylindrical stems of opaque green reaching up to 1.64 m long and 2.4 – 3 cm in diameter. Ribs 8 – 10; areoles circular, 0.25 – 0.35 cm in diam, dark. Spines are straight, yellow bronze when they are young, then gray when getting older; radial spines 13 – 15, 0.4 – 1 cm long; central spines 5 – 11, 0.7 – 3.2 cm long.

Flowers are born along the stem, but are more concentrated towards the apex, the flowers are orange-red, 2.5 – 4.3 cm long, perianth of 1.9 – 2.9 cm in diameter. Floral tube 1 – 1.3 cm in diam., dark green colour, covered with white spines and black trichomes. Ovary 0.3 – 0.4 cm long and 0.4 – 0.5 cm wide; nectar chamber form an inverted cone of 0.3 – 0.35 cm long and 0.3 – 0.4 cm wide. Filaments are pale pink to light yellow, anthers are yellow. Styles are light yellow; stigmas are light yellow, with 9 lobes.

Fruits spherical are 2 – 3 cm in diameter, light green at first, covered with yellow bronze spines falling when the fruit is mature.

Seeds are blackish brown, 1.5 – 1.8 mm long, 1.0 – 1.2 mm wide and 0.8 – 0.9 mm thick.

The period of flowering is from October till December and sporadically in September. We can find fruits in August.

This plant grows on steep rocky cliffs, between 2325 – 3097 m. in altitude, and shares its habitat with *Matucana intertexta*, *M. aureiflora*, *M. myriacantha*, *Opuntia exaltata*, *Cleistocactus cajamarcensis*, *Pitcarnia incarium*, *Echeveria* sp., *Peperomia gallioides* var. *glauca*, *Peperomia nivalis*, *Peperomia andina*, *Puya* sp.

Distribution:

Dept. Cajamarca. Prov. San Marcos. Dist. José Sabogal. Caserío Nueva Esperanza and El Amante. Dist. José Manuel Quiroz. Caserío Lic Lic. Dist. Pedro Gálvez, Caserío Saparcón Prov. Cajamarca. Dist. Namora, Caserío San Nicolás and Palturo. Dist. Baños del Inca, Caserío Sangal.

Holotype: Dist. Namora, Caserío San Nicolás. Nelson Cieza - 1139, at 2705 m. in altitude, latitude 07 ‘ 03.0”, longitude 78 ‘ 20.0”. Grows together with *Matucana aureiflora*, *Opuntia exaltata*, *Cleistocactus cajamarcensis*, *Peperomia andina*, *Peperomia nivalis*, *Pitcarnia incarium*, *Puya* sp.

The type is deposited in the Herbarium of the Museum of Natural History, University National Mayor, San Marcos, Lima, Peru under the number USM 251213.





Corrycactus erici-marae, habitat, Cajamarca, Peru (photo: N. Cieza Padilla).





Coryocactus erici-marae, fl. & fr., Cajamarca, Peru (photo: N. Cieza Padilla).



Coryocactus erici-marae, roots and seeds, Cajamarca, Peru (photo: N. Cieza Padilla).



DISTRIBUTION TABLE

SAN MARCOS	
District	Hamlet or Locality
• José Sabogal	• Nueva esperanza • El Amante
• Pedro Gálvez	• Saparcón
• José Manuel Quiroz	• Lic Lic
CAJAMARCA	
District	Hamlet or Locality
• Namora	• San Nicolás • Palturo
• Baños del Inca	• Cañón of Sangal

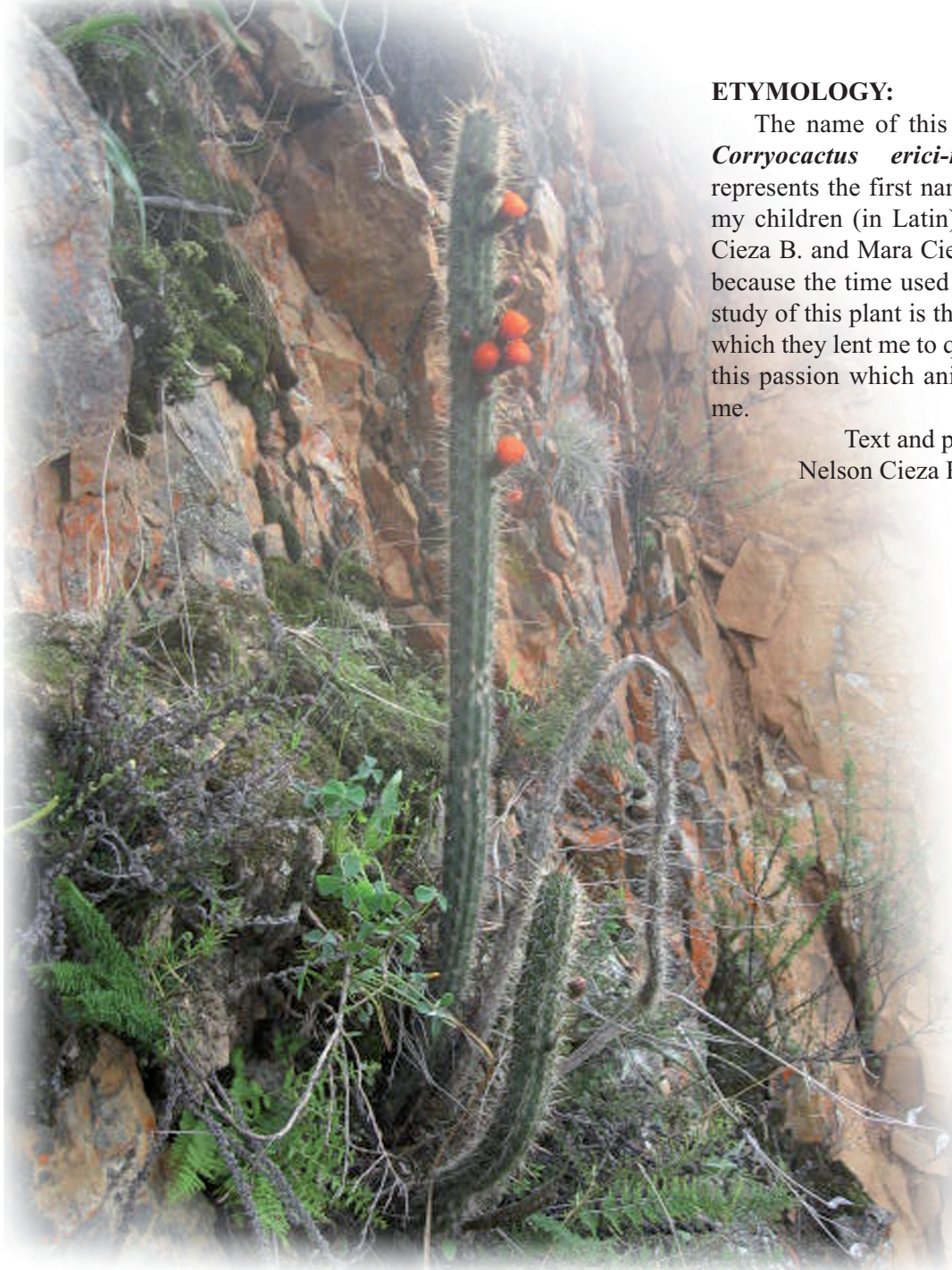
DISCUSSION:

According to the data found , it is necessary to note:

The only description close to this species is *Corryocactus erectus*, for that reason, we establish a comparison to verify that these plants well belong to a different species.

TABLE OF COMPARISON

	<i>Corryocactus erectus</i>	<i>Corryocactus erici-marae</i>
Size	up to 1 m	up to 1.64 m
Diameter	3 cm.	2.4 – 3 cm.
Ribs	7 – 9	8 – 10
Central spines	8 – 18	5 – 11
Radial spines		13 – 15
Colour of flower	Carmine red to scarlet	Orange-red
Length of the flower	2.5 – 4 cm.	2.5 – 4.3 cm.
Perianth	5 cm.	1.9 – 2.9 cm.
Diameter of the fruit	2 cm.	2 – 3 cm.



ETYMOLOGY:

The name of this plant, *Corryocactus erici-marae* represents the first names of my children (in Latin), Eric Cieza B. and Mara Cieza B., because the time used in the study of this plant is the time which they lent me to quench this passion which animates me.

Text and photos:
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