



CACTI OF PERU: *Matucana fruticosa*, new contributions

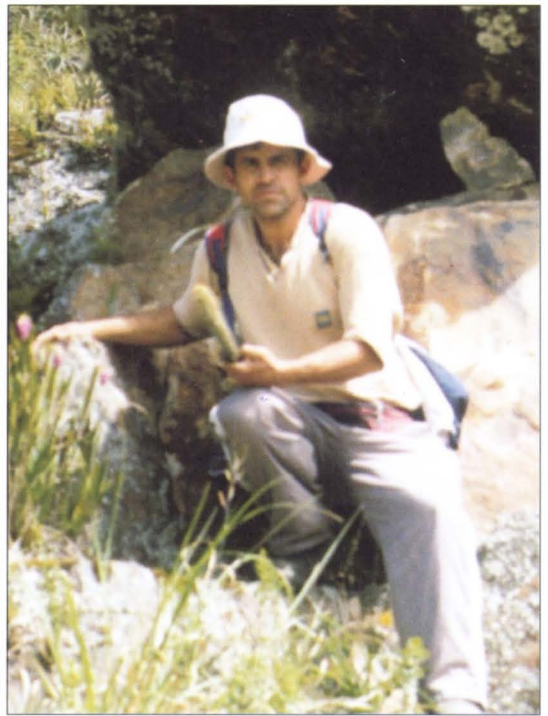
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PRESENTATION:

The poor studies which were realized on the genus *Matucana* in its habitat generated the interest to write this article about the genus, in particular species which were described in the department of Cajamarca. We shall take advantage of it to write about differences and characteristics found in *Matucana*



Matucana fruticosa, habitat (Photo : N. Cieza Padilla).



Matucana fruticosa, habitat (Photo : N. Cieza Padilla). Nelson Cieza Padilla (Photo : Maritza Briones Rojas).

fruticosa, for which the data was taken in its own habitat and which will complete the study realized by Rob Bregman in his book “*The genus Matucana*”; we hope that the characteristics which we underline through this article will be a precious contribution for the persons who are interested in this genus.

DESCRIPTION:

The description presented here report plants studied in two various habitats and which are separated from each other by about 10 kilometres as the crow flies. These habitats are Huacraruco (where the species was described by Ritter in 1966) and Yumahual, places belonging to the district of San Juan, Department of Cajamarca.

Plants present a green body of cereoid and decumbent habit, up to 60 cm long and 3 – 9.8 cm wide, growing in groups thanks to the new offsets which are born at the base of mature plants. 12 – 17 straight ribs with transverse grooves. Areoles oval, 4 – 5.5 mm long and 1.5 – 2 mm wide. Spines straight, yellow to tan; 21 – 27 radial spines 0.5 – 2.8 mm long; 4-5 central spines, 1.1-5.2 cm long.

Apical flowers and along the stem, 7.3 – 8.6 cm long, perianth 3.4 – 5.4 cm wide, yellow and orange. Floral tube 9-13 mm wide, yellow to greenish-yellow, with black hairs. The nectar chamber is 2.5-3.5 mm long and 6-7.5 mm wide, closed diaphragm. White strands in yellow and anthers light yellow. Yellow style in reddish; light yellow stigma with 5 lobes.

Spherical fruit of green colour, 0.9 – 1.5 mm diameter.



Matucana fruticosa, fl. (Photo : N. Cieza Padilla).

Seeds of black colour 1.8-2 mm. Long, 1.5-2 mm. Of wide and 1 mm thickness, in a developed micropyle.

This plant grows between 2371-3050 m. in altitude, in a stony soil with a 50-85 degree hillside where the growth of plants is up to observed to 25 cms in length, while its biggest growth is reached on a ground rich in humus and with a more humidity; this species shares its habitat with *Peperomia andina*, *Peperomia gallioides*, *Peperomia nivalis*, *Peperomia cymbifolia*, *Echeveria oreophila*, *Elleanthus sp.*, *Bromelia sp.*, *Pitcarnia incarium*, *Puya sp.*, *Sedum sp.*, etc.... The period of flowering is from January till April.

STUDIED MATERIAL:

Province Cajamarca, District of San Juan, Hamlet of Yumahual: *Camino of herradura has Escuela de Yumahual* in 3047 m. in altitude. 23 Nov. 2003 (RRP-555 / 07 ° 10.3 ' / 78 ° 20.5 '"), on 2581 m. in altitude. 15 Jan. 2006 (RRP-839 / 07 ° 40.5 ' / 79 ° 00.6 '"). Hamlet Huacarucu: on both sides of the road to the Cooperative of Huacarucu in 2371 m. in altitude. In March 11th, 2007 (RRP-1105 / 07 ° 36.0 ' / 78 ° 55.5 '"), on 2426 m. in altitude. In March 11th, 2007 (RRP-1114 / 07 ° 09.2 ' / 78 ° 25.7 '").

COMMENTS:

By taking into account the description of *Matucana fruticosa* which Rob Bregman made, and notes made in this article, we present the following picture(table) where we indicated the differences and the contributions which are made.

"The genus <i>Matucana</i> "	present article
* width of the plant from 3 to 6 cm.	* width of the plant from 3 to 9·8 cm.
* * radial spines from 5 to 10	* radial Spines 21 – 27 central spines of 4 – of 5
* number of flowers from 1 to 3.	* number of flowers up to 7.
* flower of yellow colour.	* flower of yellow and orangy colour.
* floral tube from 6 to 10 mm.	* floral tube from 9 to 13 mm.
* nectar chamber 3-5 long.	* nectar chamber 2·5-3·5 long and 6-7·5 wide.
* flowering ex-habitat from Aug. till Oct.	* flowering in habitat from Jan. till April
	* altitude between 2371-3050 m.

CONCLUSIONS:

The conclusions to be concluded are the following ones:

- It is necessary to make a detailed study in the place where plants grow.
- It is necessary that the presented data is held in account, because details were obtained in the place where they grow and with a follow-up of 2003 up to this date.
- A new habitat was found, at Yumahual – San Juan – Cajamarca.
- The period of flowering is different when it is outside its habitat; for that reason, she must not be taken into account for the description.

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Seeds of *Matucana fruticosa*. (Photo : N. Cieza Padilla)

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