

Yucca lacandonica (Agavaceae), A new record for Guatemala

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Yucca lacandonica habitat, Guatemala.

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During their field expeditions, brothers Francisco and Fredy Archila Moraux discovered in 2010 in the rainforests of Alta Verapaz's department, an "izote" (*Yucca* sp.) growing on big trees, what seemed unusual to them! An epiphytic yucca?. During June of the same year, we visited the region to be able to get information about this species, and found it on cut down trees. The plants which were found by the brothers Archila do not exist already any more, the destruction of the forest affected these regions by destroying the trees where these yuccas were growing. This species, *Yucca lacandonica* is a rarity inside the forests of Guatemala and it is



Fredy Archila collecting *Yucca lacandonica* habitat, Guatemala.

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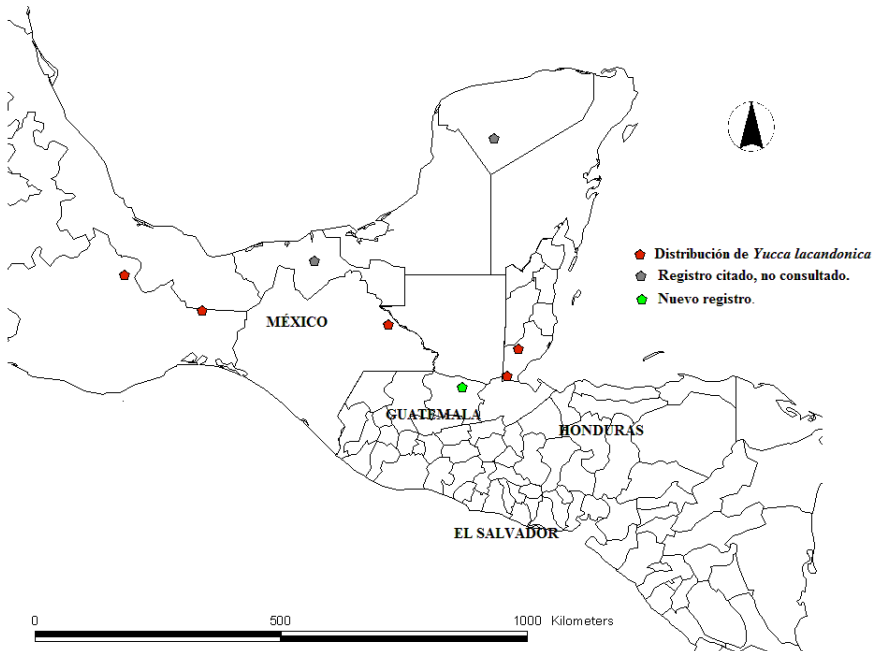


Figura 1. Distribution Map of *Yucca lacandonica* in Mexico, Belize and Guatemala.



Yucca lacandonica: 1) leaves ; 2) old infl. ; 3) stem 4) ; plant in culture.

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Yucca lacandonica Gómez Pompa & Valdés

nc. AGAVACEAE

GUATEMALA, Alta Verapaz, Fray Bartolome de la Casas, carretera hacia Carchá
Altitud 221 msnm 14°47'01.91"N, 89°56'23.63"O

Planta epífita, rara; de 1.5-2 m de porte, con hojas carnosas verde brillante, con una inflorescencia
paniculada, vieja. Tomada de un árbol tumbado.

Col. M. Véliz con F. Archila 9/VI/2015

Det: M. Véliz 13/VI/2015

MV 24469

Specimen 72635 of herbarium BIGU, USAC which documents the new record in Guatemala of *Yucca lacandonica* Gómez Pompa & Valdés

the first time that it is registered. Below, we present the description of the species based on Flora Mesoamericana (Davidse, Sousa and Knapp., 1994).

***Yucca lacandonica* Gómez Pompa & Valdés,**

Bol. Soc. Bot. México 27: 43 (1962). Holotipo: México, Chiapas, *Gómez Pompa* 353 (MEXU!).

Epiphytic plant; stems 1-3 m, circa. 25 cm in diameter at the base, partially horizontal, curved. Leaves 35-85 x 3-7 cm, narrowing near the base, fleshy to thin, shiny; finely sharp tip; margins denticulate with a yellowish strip 0.5 mm in width. Panicle 40-100 cm, pyramidal, with a short peduncle. Flowers bell-shaped ; tepals 4.5-7 x 0.8 cm or more, elongated - linear, white or whitish, free from the base; filaments 7 mm; ovary 1-1.5 x 0.4-0.6 cm, elongated. Fruits 4-10 x 2-4.5 cm, cylindrical, fleshy, subtrigonal, indehiscent; seeds 5-7 x 4-6 mm.

Grows in high and medium evergreen rainforests.

Documented from Tabasco (*Gómez Pompa s.n.*, MEXU); Chiapas (*Martínez S. 18203*, MEXU); Yucatán (*Matuda & Piña Lujan*, 1980: 112); Belize (*Schipp*, 1324); Guatemala (*Véliz & Archila, MV 24469*). 200-800 m. (see map1 and picture of specimen 72635 of herbarium BIGU, USAC).

Dichotomous key to determine the species of *Yucca* in Central America, based on À. García-Mendoza & E.J Lott (1994).

1. Epiphytic Plants, accidentally epipetric, with fleshy, shiny leaves

1. *Yucca lacandonica*

- 1'. Terrestrial Plants (2).

- 2(1'). Panicle erected, glabrous. ...

2. *Yucca guatemalensis*

2. Panicle pendulous, tomentose. ...

3. *Yucca aloifolia*

Text & Photos: Mario Esteban Véliz Pérez & Fredy Archila Morales

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