REPORT ON EXPEDITION / PROJECT

Expedition/Project Title:	Expedition to collect <i>Berberis</i> (Berberidaceae) in the Colombian Paramos			
Travel Dates:	15th June 2021 – 19th September 2022			
Location:	Colombia (Cundinamarca, Boyacá, Cesar, Caldas, Cauca, Nariño)			
Group Members:	Andrés Orejuela			
Aims:	The proposed work aims to increase collections of poorly represented species of the Colombian <i>Berberis</i> in the herbaria, make field observations, take live photographs, and collect fresh leaves in silica gel for molecular studies.			
Photography consent form (please refer to your award l	attached: ⊠ Yes etter) □ No			

Outcome (a minimum of 500 words): A field expedition, supported by the Davis Expedition Fund, was completed in the Colombian Andes between June 2021 and September 2022. A total of 42 specimens of *Berberis* (Berberidaceae) were collected, representing 16 native species, including 11 endemic species, ten of which were collected in the type locality. The fieldwork was divided into several trips focused on the Boyacá and Cundinamarca departments, with one trip to the Serrania of Perija in the north of Colombia, another to Central Colombia in Caldas and another to the Southwestern Colombia in Cauca and Nariño departments. In addition, four herbaria were also visited, PSO in Pasto (43 specimens), CUVC in Cali (31 specimens), JBB (162 specimens) and COL (588 specimens) in Bogotá, with a total of 824 herbaria collections of *Berberis* studied.

Expedition to collect *Berberis* (Berberidaceae) in the Colombian Paramos

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Berberis hallii Hieron. in Nariño, Colombia (photo: A. Orejuela)





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Introduction

Berberis L. is a large and widely distributed genus of ~650 species distributed nearly throughout the temperate to subtropical regions of the world. It is the only genus of Berberidaceae that extends its distribution to the Southern Hemisphere to the Andes and temperate habitats in South America and North and East African highlands (Adhikari et al., 2015; Sun et al., 2018). One hundred eighty species of *Berberis* grow in the Americas (Ulloa-Ulloa et al., 2018), including "compound" and "simple" leaved species. All the South American *Berberis* are "simple-leaved" and grow in the high Andean Paramos in northern South America or the temperate regions in southern South America. In South America, the highest diversity can be found in Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador, with 33, 31 and 30 species and a remarkable endemicity.

Aims

The fieldwork aimed to increase collections of poorly represented species of the Colombian *Berberis* in the herbaria, make field observations, take live photographs and collect fresh leaves in silica gel. The specimens, photographs and field observations will be used to assess variability in characters within a species and as a basis for the taxonomic revision of the genus for Colombia. Fresh leaves will be preserved in silica gel for future molecular studies and to enrich the current phylogenies with species from northern South America.

Study Site

The study area comprises the paramos located in the Colombian Andes. Paramos, with 3431 species of vascular plants (Luteyn, 1999), may be considered a plant diversity hotspot (Myers et al., 2000). At altitudes ranging from 2800 to 4700 m above sea level, paramos form an archipelago-like distribution between latitudes 11N and 8S covering approximately 35,000 km² (Madriñan et al. 2013). Physical characteristics of

the ecosystem include aseasonal conditions with high daytime temperatures and low night-time temperatures, and high solar energy input and ultraviolet radiation. (Luteyn, 1999). The great majority of the plant species found in the Páramos are endemic to this ecosystem, with close relatives in lowland-tropical or north and south-temperate regions (van der Hammen and Cleef, 1986). The last is the case of *Berberis*, which belongs to paramo taxa, allochthonous, temperate plant groups that immigrated to the tropics from higher latitudes after environments suitable for species adapted to temperate conditions became available (Cleef, 1979).

Preliminary results

A total of 42 specimens were collected from 16 Colombian native species of *Berberis*. All collections are summarised in table 1, and a representative per species is shown in appendix 1.

The latitude and longitude of the collection place and elevation data were recorded for all specimens. The labels for all collections included habitat information and plant descriptions focused on characters lost during drying (e.g., habit, height, and colour). Photographs were taken whenever possible. Silica-dried fresh leaves were collected for each numbered collection. Specimens were preserved in 70% alcohol and heat dried in Bogotá at the JBB herbarium in the Bogotá Botanic Garden.

At least three duplicates were made for each collection whenever possible. All specimens collected during the fieldwork were deposited at the JBB herbarium. One set of duplicates will be sent to the National Herbarium (COL) from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and another will be exported to the E herbarium at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Table 1. Individuals collected in each locality

Species	Voucher	Latitude	Longitude	Locality
<i>Berberis carrikeri</i> L.A. Camargo	Orejuela 3712	10° 16' 2.172" N	72° 58' 32.664" W	Cesar

Berberis carupensis L.A.	Orejuela 3744	5º21'03.12 "N	73°53'44.06"W	Cundinamarca
Berberis chocontana L.A.	Orejuela 3843	5°05'43.08"N	73°42'77.95"W	Cundinamarca
Berberis cretata L.A.	Orejuela 3313	4° 6' 27.396" N	74° 20' 5.352" W	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis cretata L.A.	Orejuela 3762	4°31'02.62"N	74°09'54.95"W	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis glauca DC	Orejuela 3277	4°05'25.73" N	74°20'15.30" W	Cundinamarca
Berberis glauca DC	Orejuela 3282	4°05'25.73" N	74°20'15.30" W	Cundinamarca
<i>Berberis goudotii</i> Triana & Planch_ex Wedd	Orejuela 3311	4° 6' 27.396" N	74° 20' 5.352" W	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis goudotii Triana & Planch ex Wedd	Orejuela 3312	4° 6' 27.396" N	74° 20' 5.352" W	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis goudotii Triana & Planch, ex Wedd.	Orejuela 3314	4° 6' 27.396" N	74° 20' 5.352" W	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis goudotii Triana & Planch. ex Wedd.	Orejuela 3321	4° 6' 27.612"N	74° 20' 5.568" W	Bogotá D.C.
<i>Berberis goudotii</i> Triana & Planch, ex Wedd.	Orejuela 3399	4° 6' 30.384" N	74° 20' 8.34" W	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis grandiflora Turcz.	Orejuela 4019	1º0.5'27"N	77°39'45"W	Nariño
Berberis grandiflora Turcz	Orejuela 4028	1º0.5'27"N	77°39'45"W	Nariño
Berberis grandiflora Turcz.	Orejuela 4029	1º0.5'27"N	77°39'45"W	Nariño
Berberis grandiflora	Orejuela 4030	1º0.5'27"N	77°39'45"W	Nariño
Berberis halli Hieron.	Orejuela 4126	0°48'20"N	77°35'10"W	Nariño
Berberis halli Hieron.	Orejuela 4128	0°48'20"N	77°35'10"W	Nariño
Berberis halli Hieron.	Orejuela 4130	0°53'02"N	77°33'14"W	Nariño
Berberis huertasii L.A.	Orejuela 4191	5°23'3.28"N	73°32'48.9"W	Boyacá
Berberis huertasii L.A.	Orejuela 4192	5°23'3.28"N	73°32'48.9"W	Boyacá
Berberis huertasii L.A.	Orejuela 4193	5º28'31"N	73°26'49"W	Boyacá
Berberis huertasii L.A.	Orejuela 4194	5°28'37.3"N	73°26'57"W	Boyacá
Berberis huertasii L.A.	Orejuela 4195	5°29'24.9"N	73°26'27.3"W	Boyacá
Berberis julianae C.K.	Orejuela 4183	4º40'10.08"N	74°06'6.6"W	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis morana L.A.	Orejuela 3747	5º22'13.21"N	73°54'23.57"W	Cundinamarca
Berberis morana L.A.	Orejuela 3751	4°40'05.1"N	74°06'00.4"W	Bogotá D.C.
Camargo Berberis morana L.A.	Orejuela 4184	4º40'1.16"N	74°05'57.5"W	Bogotá D.C.
Camargo Berberis rigidifolia Kunth	Orejuela 3400	4° 6' 30.38" N	74° 20' 8.34" W	Bogotá D.C.
ex DC. Berberis rigidifolia Kunth	Orejuela 3735	5°20'12.8"N	73°57'02.3"W	Cundinamarca
ex DC. Berberis rigidifolia Kunth	Orejuela 3755	4°40'05.1"N	74°06'00.4"W	Bogotá D.C.
ex DC. Berberis rigidifolia Kunth	Orejuela 3760	4°31'02.62"N	74°09'54.95"W	Bogotá D.C.
ex DC. Berberis rigidifolia Kunth	Orejuela 4186	4º40'1.16"N	74°05'57.5"W	Bogotá D.C.
ex DC. Berberis sp	Oreiuela 3763	4°31'02 62"N	74°09'54 95"\\/	Bogotá D.C.
Berberis stuebelii Hieron	Oreiuela 4143	2º21'24.4"N	76°18'82.6"W	Cauca
Berberis sumapazana	Orejuela 3736	5º20'12.8"N	73°57'02.3"W	Cundinamarca
L.A. Camargo Berberis sumapazana	Orejuela 3739	5º18'15.09"N	73°57'27.3"W	Cundinamarca
L.A. Camargo Berberis tabiensis L.A.	Oreiuela 3748	4°54'18 52" N	74°05'1 22" W	Cundinamarca
Camargo Berberis uribei L.A.	Orejuela 3315	4° 6' 27.39" N	74° 20' 5.35" W	Bogotá D.C.
Camargo				. -

Berberis verticillata Turcz.	Orejuela 3968	4°58'57.84"N	75°20'1.43"W	Caldas
Berberis verticillata Turcz.	Orejuela 3971	4°58'57.84"N	75°20'1.43"W	Caldas
Berberis vulgaris L. (cultivated)	Orejuela 4185	4º40'1.16"N	74°05'57.5"W	Bogotá D.C.

The collection effort was focused on the Cundinamarca and Boyacá departments, where Camargo (1966, 1981, 1983, 1991) described many endemic and poor known species. Of 16 native species collected, 11 are endemic to Colombia (Figure 1 & 2).



Figure 1. Map of fieldwork done in Colombia. *Berberis* species collected during the fieldwork are shown in orange circles. Endemic species are highlighted with an asterisk.



Live photos of the species collected are shown in figure 2.

Figure 2. Live photos of some of the *Berberis* species collected during the fieldwork in Colombia. A,B *Berberis carupensis*; C,D: *Berberis chocontana*; E: *Berberis cretata*; F,G: *Berberis glauca*; H,I: *Berberis goudotii*; J,K: *Berberis grandiflora*; L,M: *Berberis hallii*, N,O: *Berberis huertasii*; P,Q: *Berberis morana*; R: *Berberis rigidifolia*; S: *Berberis stuebelii*; T: *Berberis sumapazana*; U: *Berberis tabiensis*; W: *Berberis uribei*; X: *Berberis verticillata*. Photos by A. Orejuela, except N and O by Carlos Vargas.

Conclusions

- The species of *Berberis* collected during the fieldwork founded by the Davis Expedition Fund account for around 50% of the Colombian species diversity.
- The herbaria revision, coupled with the fieldwork, allowed us to improve our understanding of the diversity of the Colombian *Berberis*. However, much more remains to be done to understand the genus *Berberis* in Colombia fully. This is particularly true considering the high plasticity of the leaf morphology of some species and, the recurrent use of leaf morphology, and the loose interpretation of some key morphological characters by the Colombian *Berberis* specialist Luis Alfredo Camargo when describing many new species between 1966-1991 (He described 18 of 31 currently accepted species of Colombian *Berberis*).
- Our work showed that many of the Colombian species, especially those described by Camargo, are potential synonyms. This is the case of *B. sumapazana* and *B. cretata* which look like variants of *B. goudotii. Berberis morana* and *B. carrikeri* are putative synonyms of *B. glauca. Berberis chocontana* and *B. muiscarum* look very like *B. quindiuensis.* There are probably many more such cases.

Future work

 Fieldwork to the western Andean cordillera and the north of the country must be prioritised to collect the remaining species of Colombian *Berberis* and allow for assessing the identity of these species. Mainly, fieldwork focused on collecting the species described by Camargo on the type localities must be emphasised.

- We are starting to extract the DNA of the 16 species of *Berberis* collected during this work, and including these species in the current molecular phylogenies is a priority.
- We will keep working on the herbaria around Colombia and examining the type collections to progress in the taxonomic revision of *Berberis* of Colombia. Concerning this, a morphometric study of the leaf morphology of the Colombian *Berberis* and an exploration of the new sources of morphological variation must be prioritised.

Acknowledgements

This field trip was made possible by the generous support of the Davis Fund. I thank

Carlos Vargas, Jhoana Castillo, Humberto Mendoza, Camilo Fernandez, Fabio Ávila,

Diego Másmela and Boris Villanueva for their field assistance; Julio Betancur (COL),

Alejandro Zuluaga (CUVC), Lina Corrales (JBB) and Aida Elena Bacca (PSO) for their

support during my herbaria visits; and James Richardson and Carlos Vargas for their

academic support.

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Appendix 1

Examples of specimens of *Berberis* collected during the fieldwork (one representative per species in alphabetical order are shown)































