

## The lichen genus *Usnea* (*Parmeliaceae*) in tropical South America: species with a pigmented medulla, reacting C+ yellow

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**Abstract:** In tropical South America (Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil), we investigated the diversity of *Usnea* species with a pigmented, C+ yellow medulla. Four species are treated: the sorediate *U. ceratina* and *U. entoviolata*, the latter being new for South America, and the non-sorediate *U. cristatula* and *U. flavorubescens*, the latter being newly described here. A detailed description is provided for each species together with an identification key.

**Key words:** chemistry, endemism, morphology, Neotropics, taxonomy

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### Introduction

*Usnea* Adans. is a large genus in the family *Parmeliaceae*, with more than 350 species (Clerc 1998) that are widely distributed in polar, temperate and tropical regions. The genus is recognized based on the fruticose thallus, branches with a cartilaginous central axis and the presence of usnic acid in the cortex. At the species level, the extensive plasticity of morphological characters, in response to environmental parameters, greatly challenges the delimitation of species (Clerc 1998) and numerous taxa have been reduced to synonymy. Since Motyka's world monograph (1936–38), modern revisions of the genus *Usnea* have been completed in Europe (Clerc 1987*b*, 1992, 2011*b*; Halonen *et al.* 1999), Macaronesia (Clerc 2006), North America (Clerc & Herrera-Campos 1997; Halonen *et al.* 1998; Herrera-Campos *et al.* 1998, 2001; Clerc 2008), Eastern Asia (Ohmura 2001; Ohmura *et al.* 2010), East Africa (Swinscow & Krog 1978, 1979), Australia (Stevens 1999, 2004), India (Awasthi

1986) and polar regions (Seymour *et al.* 2007; Wirtz *et al.* 2008). South America exhibits a high diversity of *Usnea* species that is still poorly known (Truong *et al.* 2011). An ongoing investigation of the taxonomic diversity of *Usnea* was started recently in South America and the Galapagos (Rodriguez *et al.* 2011; Truong *et al.* 2011).

Medullary pigmentation has a strong taxonomic value to delimit several *Usnea* species (Swinscow & Krog 1979; Ohmura 2001; Truong *et al.* 2011). Two types of pigmentation are recognized in the medulla of *Usnea* species (Ohmura 2001): 1) a reddish orange, subcortical pigmentation; 2) a pinkish pigmentation, reacting C+ yellow and CK+ orange. The exact nature of these pigments is still unclear. Ohmura (2001) suggested, based on East Asian material, that the subcortical orange pigmentation of *U. dorogawzensis* was secreted inside the cell walls of the hyphae, whereas the pinkish pigmentation of *U. baileyi*, *U. ceratina* and *U. mutabilis* resulted from the accumulation of bisxanthonones (such as eumitrins) outside the cell walls of the hyphae. However, in several species with a pinkish pigmentation (including *U. ceratina*) the presence of bisxanthonones has not yet been confirmed. The correlation of these pigments with the presence of specific metabolites detected by TLC (for example

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TABLE 1. *Distribution per country\* and altitudinal range of Usnea species*

Species	n†	BOL	BRA	COL	ECU	PER	VEN	Altitude (m)
<i>U. ceratina</i>	145	+	+	+	+	+	+	600–3500
<i>U. cristatula</i>	28	+		+		+	+	450–3000
<i>U. entoviolata</i>	61	+	+	+		+	+	1000–3000
<i>U. flavorubescens</i>	5					+		2000–2700

\* BOL, Bolivia; BRA, Brazil; COL, Colombia; ECU, Ecuador (excluding the Galapagos); PER, Peru; VEN, Venezuela.

† n = number of specimens studied.

diffraetaic acid) is also not clear. To truly characterize these pigments, a detailed study using microscopy coupled with quantifying chemical analysis such as high-performance liquid chromatography would be needed. The use of spot tests (for example the C+ reaction), although not permitting identification to a specific metabolite or pigment, remains useful to identify the species based on their medullary reactions.

Species with a reddish orange, subcortical pigmentation (e.g. *U. dorogawensis* Asahina, *U. steineri* Zahlbr., *U. subdasaea* Truong & Clerc) have recently been treated in South America (Truong *et al.* 2011). Species with a pinkish pigmentation are either 'eumitrioid', characterized by a tubular central axis throughout the whole thallus, or have a solid central axis. Eumitrioid species [e.g. *U. baileyi* (Stirt.) Zahlbr., *U. perplectata* Motyka] in South America will be studied separately in a forthcoming publication. This study treats the species with a solid central axis and a pinkish medulla, reacting C+ yellow, occurring in tropical South America. This group of species corresponds to *U. ceratina* Ach. and related species.

## Materials and Methods

This study is based mainly on material collected by the first author in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as herbarium specimens collected in Colombia by H. Sipman (B) and in Venezuela by M. E. Hale, Jr. (US). For a detailed description of the collection sites see Truong *et al.* (2011). In addition, material from Brazil came mainly from the collections of SP and K. Kalb (private hb.). Specimens and types from the following

herbaria were included: B, G, H, LBL and W. Table 1 indicates the number of specimens studied, their distribution per country and their altitudinal range. Since none of the species from this group occur in the Galapagos, this region was not included here. Only synonyms that have been published for South America are mentioned.

Morphology of specimens was examined using a Leica MS5 stereomicroscope. The medullary pigmentation was studied in longitudinal sections of branches: colours of pigments were defined using a colour identification chart (Isley 1987), which is available online at [http://fcb.org/articles/color\\_chart.htm](http://fcb.org/articles/color_chart.htm). The exact nature of these pigments remains unknown and the use of spot tests does not permit identification to a specific metabolite or a pigment, but spot tests remain good discriminators to identify this group of species (medulla C+). Thickness of the cortex/medulla/axis was measured in longitudinal sections of branches at  $\times 40$  magnification (the largest part of the largest branch, but not the trunk) and the percentage of the total branch diameter (CMA) was calculated according to Clerc (1987b), as well as the ratio of the thickness of axis/medulla (A/M). In the description of species, CMA values are given with their standard deviations and follow the categories described by Clerc (2011b): the cortex is thin (<6%), moderately thin (6–8%), moderately thick (8–10%) or thick (>10%); the medulla is thin (<18%), moderately thin (18–23%), moderately thick (23–28%) or thick (>28%); the axis is thin (<30%), moderately thin (30–40%), moderately thick (40–50%) or thick (>50%). Spores were observed with a Leica DM 2000 microscope and at least 10 spores per specimen were measured at  $\times 1000$  magnification.

Chemical analyses were performed by thin-layer chromatography (TLC) following the method of Culberson & Ammann (1979), with solvent B modified according to Culberson & Johnson (1982).

## Diagnostic characters

*Usnea* species may exhibit a high morphological variation according to varying environmental parameters and the choice of stable diagnostic characters is crucial for the delimitation.

TABLE 2. Major secondary metabolites (columns) and chemotypes (lines) detected by TLC in the medulla of the *Usnea* species

Species/chemotype		<i>n</i>	BAR	DIF	NOR
<i>U. ceratina</i>	/1	81	±	+	–
	/2	3	+	–	–
<i>U. cristatula</i>	/1	27	±	+	–
	/2	1	+	–	–
<i>U. entoviolata</i>	/1	30	±	+	–
	/2	1	+	–	–
<i>U. flavorubescens</i>		5	±	–	+

*n* = number of specimens studied; +, presence in all specimens studied; ±, presence variable among specimens; –, absent; BAR, barbartic; DIF, diffractaic; NOR, norstictic acids.

itation of species. The following characters were used to delimit species within this group:

**Tubercles or fiberclcs.** Tubercles are protuberances on the cortex surface, that are filled with medulla and sometimes erode at the top (Swinscow & Krog 1979). Fiberclcs occur from the breaking of fibrils, resulting in a stipitate scar, with the central axis sometimes visible (Clerc & Herrera-Campos 1997). Both structures may look similar at first glance, but their ontogeny is clearly different. The potential of species to produce either of these structures is of great taxonomic importance (Clerc 1998): here *U. ceratina*, *U. cristatula* and *U. entoviolata* mostly produce tubercles whereas *U. flavorubescens* mostly produces fiberclcs.

**Soralia.** Soralia are an essential character in the taxonomy of *Usnea* (Clerc 1998), not only their presence but also their morphology (Clerc 1987a) and their ontogeny (Clerc & Herrera-Campos 1997; Ohmura 2001). The two sorediate species in this group, *U. ceratina* and *U. entoviolata*, are distinguished by both the origin and the shape of soralia.

**Chemistry.** The chemistry in this group is not very diverse with only three major metabolites detected by TLC in the medulla (Table 2). *Usnea flavorubescens* is distinguished by the presence of norstictic acid; all other species have diffractaic and/or barbartic acid in the medulla.

All species exhibit similar CMA values (Fig. 1). Spore size was also similar among the species. The shape of branches and segments or the constriction of branches at the attachment point are useful characters to delimit numerous *Usnea* species (Clerc 1998, 2011b). These characters show an unusually high variability in *U. ceratina* and *U. cristatula* and are therefore difficult to interpret in this group of species.

## The Species

### *Usnea ceratina* Ach.

*Lich. Univ.*: 619 (1810); type: [Poland], Silesia, Mosig (H-ACH 1890!—lectotype). % C/M/A: 9.5/23/35. Chemistry: usnic, diffractaic, barbartic and squamatic acids (Herrera-Campos *et al.* 1998).

*Usnea solida* Motyka, *Lich. Gen. Usnea Stud. Monogr. Pars Syst.* 2: 382 (1938); type: Mexico, Veracruz, Jalapa, 1840, *Galeotti* (W!—holotype). % C/M/A: 12.5/21/33. Chemistry: usnic, diffractaic, barbartic acids and various unknown accompanying substances (Herrera-Campos *et al.* 1998).

(Figs 2A–C, 3A–D & G)

For a detailed description of this taxon, see Herrera-Campos *et al.* (1998) and Ohmura (2001).

**Diagnostic notes.** *Usnea ceratina* is characterized by a stiff thallus, with a very hard and vitreous cortex (in longitudinal section) that is moderately thick to thick (Fig. 1), and a

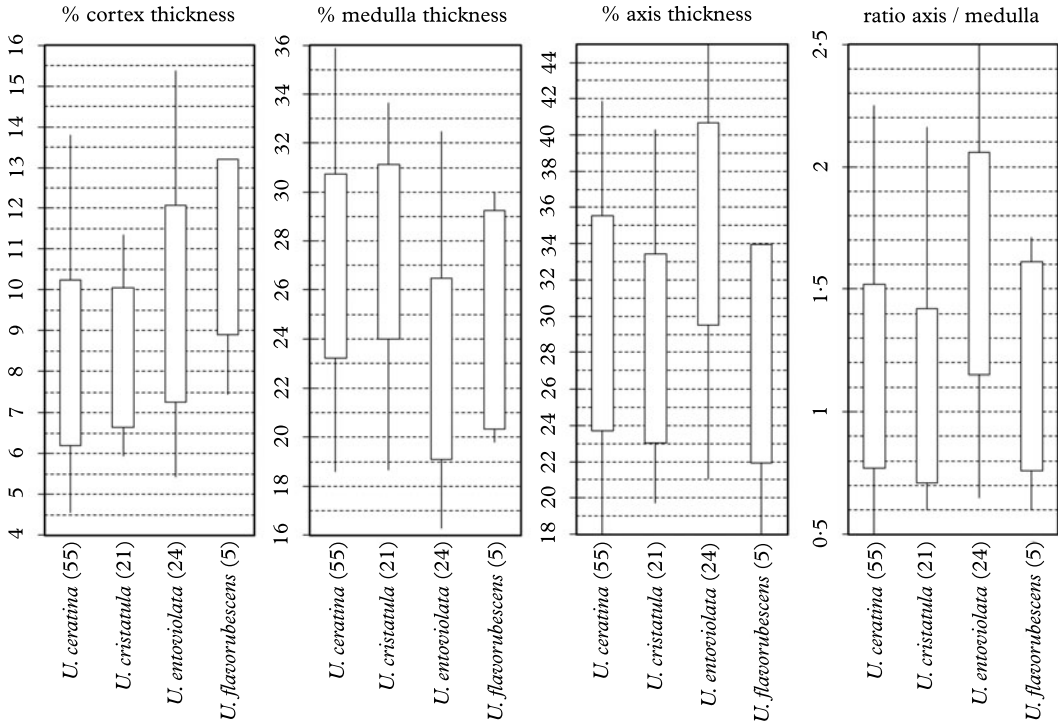


FIG. 1. Percentage of cortex/medulla/axis thickness of total branch diameter (CMA) and ratio of thickness of axis/medulla in *Usnea* species. Standard deviations as wide bars; extreme values as lines; number of specimens measured in parentheses.

pink to rose/yellowish medulla, reacting C+ yellow. The soralia remain minute or eventually fuse or enlarge more than the half-branch diameter, with a  $\pm$  irregular outline, often becoming convex at maturity, usually with numerous short isidiomorphs (Fig. 3G). Diffractaic acid or (more rarely) barbatic acid are the major metabolites detected in the medulla by TLC (Table 2).

*Variation.* *Usnea ceratina* has a variable morphology, especially in the shape of branches (tapering to irregular in diameter, Fig. 3A), the shape of segments in cross section (usually terete but often flattened or ridged, Fig. 3B), the rigidity of the thallus (typically stiff to flaccid) and the abundance of fibrils, papillae, tubercles and soralia. Several thalli may exhibit inflated branches that are slightly constricted at the attachment point (Fig. 3C), similarly to *U. cornuta* Körb. This correlates

with a *cornuta*-type CMA (Truong *et al.* 2011) and an A/M ratio < 1. This morphotype has been correlated with non-favourable conditions, such as polluted environments (Herrera-Campos *et al.* 1998; James *et al.* 2009). We did not observe such a correlation in South America but we also were not able to correlate this morphotype with any other morphological, chemical or ecological characters.

The location and concentration of the medullar pigmentation is highly variable (Fig. 2A–C): the pigmentation is typically red-purple towards the cortex, with various tones present from pink (29–30–36–37 in Isley 1987) to rose (38), rarely purple (39). Towards the axis the medulla is white to pale yellow (1), reacting C+ yellow (2–3). The medulla is rarely exclusively pale yellow (1) or almost white. In such cases the C+ yellow reaction facilitates the identification of this species.

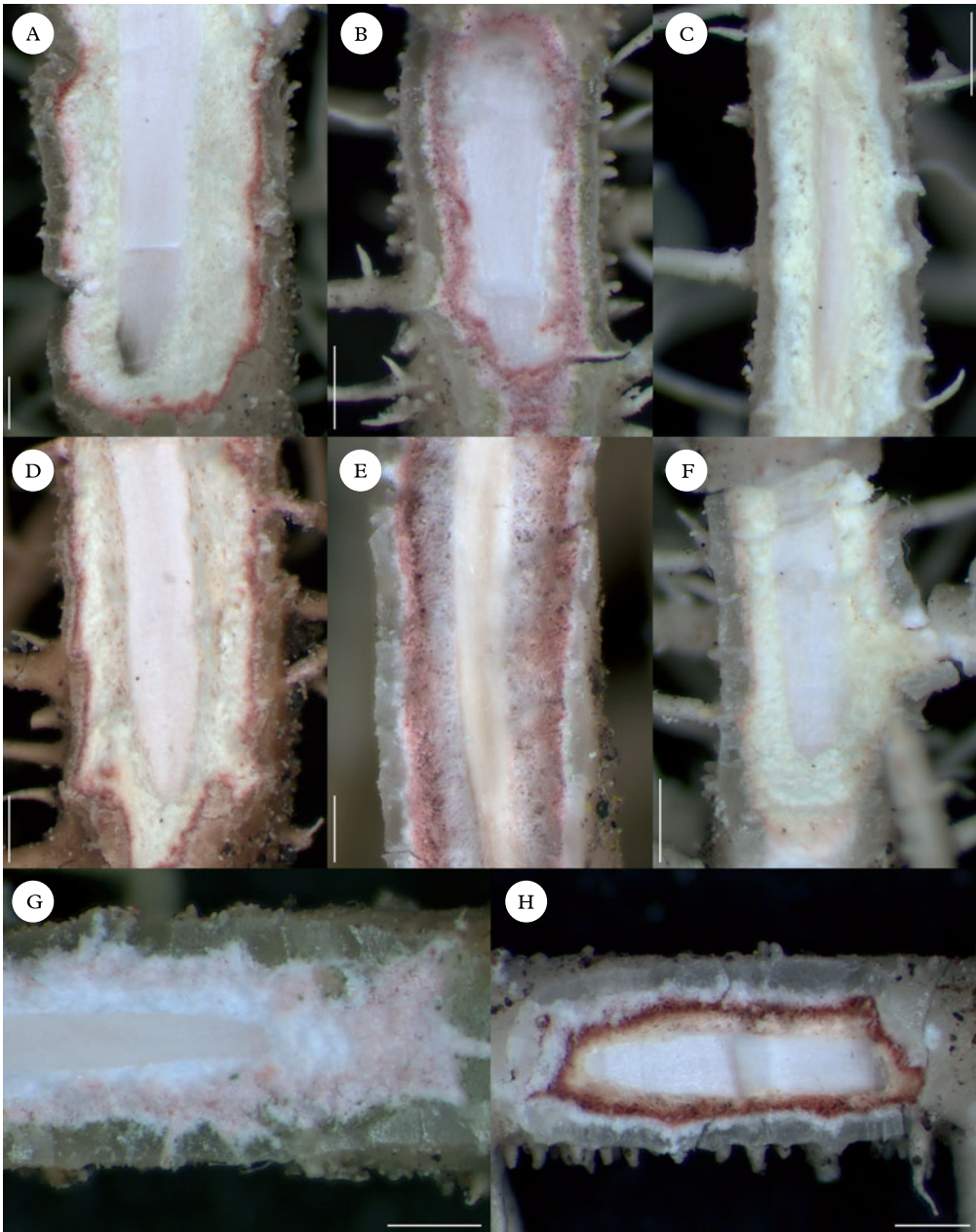


FIG. 2. Variation in the colour and location of the medullary pigmentation in *Usnea* species. A–C, *U. ceratina*; A, pigmentation pink to rose towards the cortex and pale yellow towards the axis (*Truong* 2739); B, pigmentation pink to rose, almost subcortical (*Truong* 3251); C, pigmentation pale yellow, periaxial (*Truong* 2443). D–F, *Usnea cristatula*; D, pigmentation pink to rose, subcortical, very thin (*Hale* 46870); E, pigmentation pink to rose, almost subcortical, thicker (*Truong* 683); F, pigmentation pink towards the cortex and pale yellow towards the axis (*Truong* 1811). G, *U. entoviolata*, pigmentation usually pink to rose, almost subcortical (*Bach* 633). H, *U. flavorubescens* (*Truong* 624), pigmentation periaxial, forming two layers (golden yellow then red), staying well separated from the cortex by a layer of white medullary tissue. Scales: A–H = 500  $\mu$ m.

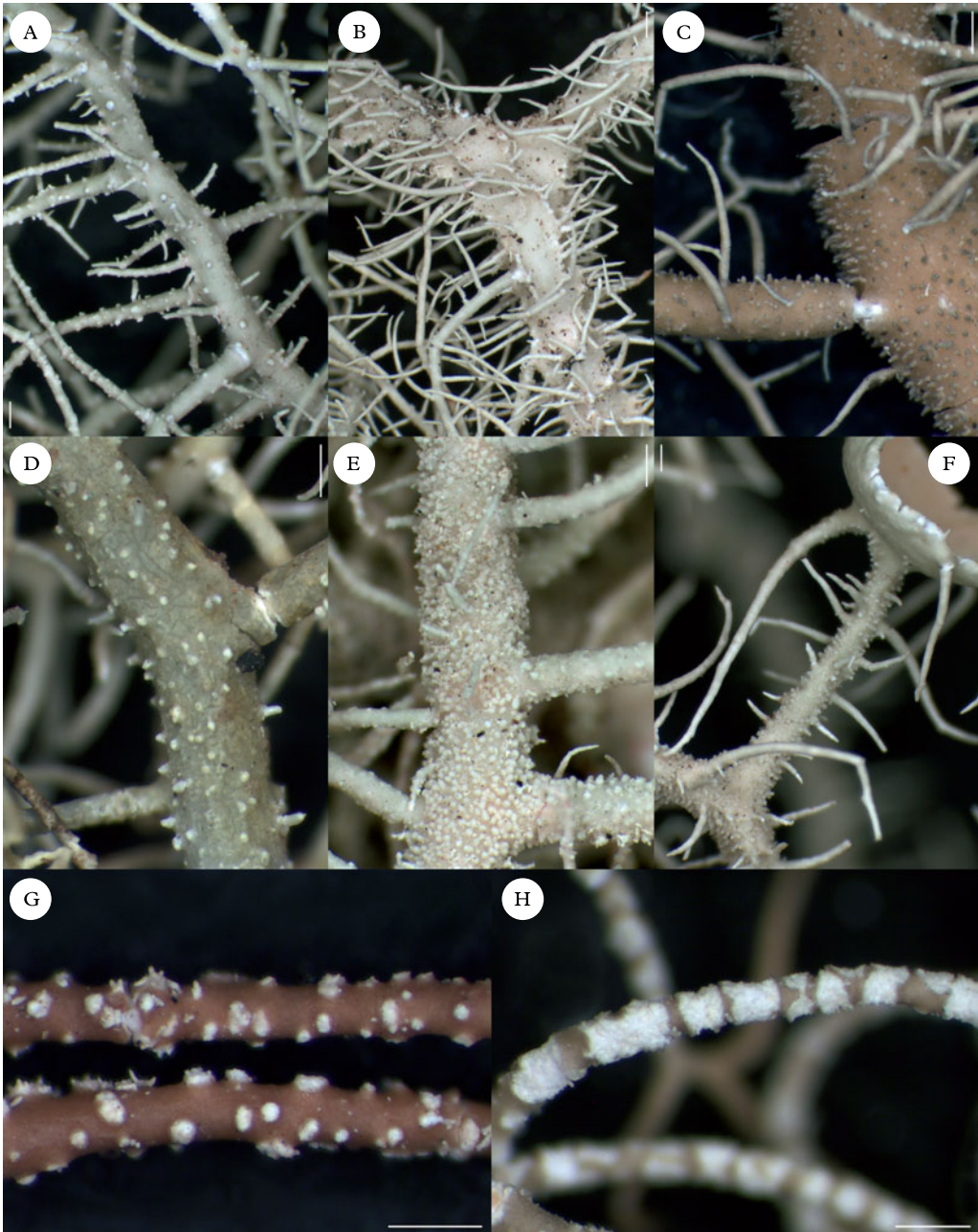


FIG. 3. A–C, *U. ceratina*, variation in the shape of branches; A, branches irregular in diameter, with slightly flattened segments; branches not constricted at the attachment point (Truong 3251); B, branches with ridged segments (Truong 1840); C, branches constricted at the attachment point (Aguirre & Sipman 6168). D–F tubercles; D, *U. ceratina* (Truong 3864); E & F, *U. cristatula*; E, numerous tubercles densely covering the branches (Truong 2799); F, fibrils and tubercles on branches supporting apothecia (Truong 1724). G & H, soralia; G, *U. ceratina* (Hale 46893), minute, distinctly stipitate soralia with numerous isidiomorphs; H, *U. entoviolata* (Aguirre & Sipman 5640C), large and excavate soralia encircling the branch, without isidiomorphs. Scales: A – H = 500  $\mu$ m.

*Differentiation.* See under *U. entoviolata*.

*Ecology and distribution.* This is primarily a corticolous species that grows on a wide variety of trees and shrubs. Occasionally it is also lignicolous (on dead trunks or fences) or saxicolous. In tropical South America, it covers an impressive altitudinal range (600–3500 m) and is found in a wide variety of habitats: from Neotropical savanna (*cerrado*) to high altitude *páramo*, in primary and secondary forests (evergreen low montane forests, montane cloud forests, *Quercus humboldtii* forests, plantations) to the upper tree limit and in open places (pastures with forest relicts, deforested zones of *matorral*). It seems to be more common in the Andes than in Brazil. This species is widely distributed in the temperate and subtropical regions of Europe, North and South America, East Africa, Asia and Oceania (Ohmura 2001; Clerc 2008).

*Selected specimens examined.* **Bolivia:** Cochabamba: Cerca de Corani, 3173 m, 2007, *Truong* 3044 (G). **La Paz:** Parque Nacional Alto Madidi, Queara, 3005 m, 2007, *Truong* 2834 (G).—**Brazil:** Minas Gerais: Serra da Mantiqueira, Fazenda São Mateus, 1800 m, 1980, *Kalb* (private hb.). Parana: Ambrósios, mun. Tijucas do Sul, 900 m, 1991, *Kummrow & Barbosa* 3258 (B). São Paulo: Reserva biológica Mogi-Guaçu, fazenda Campininha, 640 m, 2007, *Jungbluth* 1722 (SP).—**Colombia:** Antioquia: Medellín, 1500 m, 1930, *Archer* 661A (US). Boyaca: Near Arcabuco, 2600 m, 1986, *Sipman & Reyes* 34449 (B). Cauca: Popayan, c. 15 km towards Timbío, 1750 m, 1986, *Sipman, Velosa et al.* 32759 (B). Cundinamarca: Munic. San Francisco, near Quebrada Cueva Grande, 2500 m, 1986, *Sipman, Cardozo & Ballesteros* 23577 (B). Huila: Mnpio. La Plata, headwaters of rio La Candelaria, 2300 m, 1984, *Aguirre & Sipman* 6168 (B). Nariño: Mnpio. Pasto, along main road to Popayan, 2550 m, 1986, *Sipman, Velosa et al.* 33645 (B). Santander: slopes of Pico Banderas, Paramo de Tama, 2400 m, 1975, *Hale* 45787a (US).—**Ecuador:** Azuay: Alrededores del Parque Nacional Cajas, cerca del puente de los Dos Chorreras, 3304 m, 2007, *Truong* 332 (G). Imbabura: Reserva ecológica Cotacachi-Cayapas, laguna Piñan, 2786 m, 2007, *Truong* 3251 (G). Loja: Ruta nueva hasta Saragura, 2612 m, 2007, *Truong* 139 (G). Napo: 5–6 km south of Baeza, on road to Tena, 1300 m, 1985, *Churchill & Sastre De-Jesus* s. n. (B). Pichincha: Reserva geobotánica Pululahua, base del cráter, 2478 m, 2007, *Truong* 3372 (G).—**Peru:** Cajamarca: Parque Nacional Cutervo, cerca de San Andres de Cutervo, 2794 m, 2007, *Truong* 1656 (G). Cusco: Santuario histórico de Machu Picchu, alrededores de Wiñaywayna, 2728 m, 2007, *Truong* 694 (G). Huancayo: Bosque de Carpish, ruta hasta Tingo María, 2424 m,

2007, *Truong* 2739 (G). Junin: La Merced, distrito de San Ramon, catarata Tirol 1078 m, 2007, *Truong* 2673 (G). Pasco: Parque Nacional Yanachaga-Chemillén, camino hasta el refugio El Cedro, 2309 m, 2007, *Truong* 2443 (G).—**Venezuela:** Merida: La Carbonera, Merida-La Azulita road, 2200 m, 1976, *Hale* 46878 (US). Tachira: slopes of Pico Banberas, paramo de Tama, 2600 m, 1975, *Hale & Lopez-Figueiras* 45381 (US).

### Usnea cristatula Motyka

*Lich. Gen. Usnea Stud. Monogr. Pars Syst.* 2: 641 (1938); type: Mexico, Michoacan, Morelia, Cerro Azul, *Brouard* (LBL!—holotype; LBL!, S!—isotypes). % C/M/A: 11/17.5/42.5. Chemistry: usnic, diffractaic and traces of squamatic acids (*Herrera-Campos et al.* 1998).

*Usnea grandisca* Motyka, *Lich. Gen. Usnea Stud. Monogr. Pars Syst.* 2: 307 (1938); type: Peru, Junin, Tarma, Berge östlich von Palea, 2800–3100 m, 1903, *Weberbauer* (LBL!—lectotype designated here). % C/M/A: 5.5/31.5/26.5. Chemistry: usnic, diffractaic and barbatic acids.

*Nomenclatural note.* Although Motyka (1938) indicated that the holotype of *U. grandisca* was deposited in B, this specimen appears to be missing. We found two isotypes of this species deposited in LBL and confirmed that they were identical in morphology and chemistry. Therefore, we designated one specimen as the lectotype and the other specimen can be treated as an isolectotype of this species.

(Figs 2D–F, 3E & F)

For a detailed description see *Herrera-Campos et al.* (1998) and *Clerc* (2008).

*Diagnostic notes.* *Usnea cristatula* is a non-sorediate species characterized by the presence of numerous apothecia, with hyaline, obovoid spores (8.0–12.5 × 5.0–8.5 μm, *n* = 108). When apothecia are absent, pycnidia are usually visible as small globose protuberances on the terminal branches. The cortex is very hard and vitreous (in longitudinal section), moderately thick to thick (Fig. 1). The medulla is dense to compact, with a pink to rose/yellowish pigmentation reacting C+ yellow. Diffractaic acid or (more rarely) barbatic acid are the major metabolites detected in the medulla by TLC (Table 2).

*Variation.* This is a very polymorphic species: thalli are erect-shrubby to pendulous, very stiff to flaccid; branches are tapering to irregular in diameter, segments are terete, flattened or ridged in cross-section, and the abundance of fibrils, papillae and tubercles

varies (Fig. 3E & F), although tubercles are always present and considered a conspicuous character in this species (Herrera-Campos *et al.* 1998). Several specimens have inflated branches that are constricted at the attachment point, together with an A/M ratio < 1, similar to *U. cirrosa* Motyka.

The medullary pigmentation (Fig. 2D–F) is typically red-purple towards the cortex, with various tones present from pink (29–30–36–37 in Isley 1987) to rose (38), rarely purple (39). Towards the axis the medulla is white to pale yellow (1), reacting C+ yellow (2–3). The medulla is rarely exclusively pale yellow (1) or almost white. In such cases the C+ yellow reaction facilitates the identification of this species.

*Differentiation.* *Usnea cristatula* is possibly the fertile counterpart of *U. ceratina* (Herrera-Campos *et al.* 1998), sharing the same morphology, chemotypes and similarities in character variation. Indeed, *Usnea ceratina* was rarely seen with both soralia and apothecia ( $n = 3$ ). *Usnea flavorubescens* is another fertile species with a pigmented medulla reacting C+ yellow. It differs by the presence of numerous fiberclcs and few tubercles. The position and colour of the pigment in *Usnea flavorubescens* is very distinctive: it forms well-delimited yellow (2–3), orange-red (25–26–27–28–32) and white layers from the axis to the cortex (Fig. 2H). *Usnea flavorubescens* also has a relatively opaque or ‘milky’ cortex (not vitreous) and norstictic acid detected in the medulla by TLC (Table 2). *Usnea cristatula* and *U. flavorubescens* were occasionally found growing side by side in the same locality.

*Ecology and distribution.* This is primarily a corticolous species that grows on a variety of trees and shrubs. Occasionally it is also lignicolous (fence posts) or saxicolous. In tropical South America, it has so far been found only in the Andes. It was found at moderate to high altitude (1600–3000 m) in a wide variety of habitats: in primary and secondary forests (evergreen low montane forests, montane cloud forests, *Quercus humboldtii* forests) or in open places (pastures with

forest relicts, deforested zones of *matorral*). *Usnea cristatula* was previously known from Portugal (Clerc 2011a), the USA (Knudsen & Lendemer 2006), Mexico (Herrera-Campos *et al.* 1998; Clerc 2008) and Peru (*sub U. grandisca*, Clerc 2008).

*Selected specimens examined.* **Bolivia:** La Paz: 15 km de Charazani hacia Apolo, 2400 m, 1997, *Bach, Kessler, Gonzales, Acebey & Rapp* 252 (B).—**Colombia:** Cundinamarca: Mnpio. Tena, laguna de Pedro Palo, 2000 m, 1984, *Aguirre & Sipman* 5646 (B). Huila: Mnpio. La Plata, headwaters of rio La Candelaria, 2300 m, 1984, *Aguirre & Sipman* 6173 (B). Nariño: Munic. Pasto, along main road to Popayan, 2550 m, 1986, *Sipman, Velosa et al.* 33645 (B).—**Peru:** Cajamarca: Parque Nacional Cutervo, cerca de La Capilla, sector cerro Pampa, 2300 m, 2007, *Truong* 1703 (G). Cusco: Santuario histórico de Machu Picchu, alrededores de Wiñaywayna 2704 m, 2007, *Truong* 683 (G).—**Venezuela:** Merida: La Carbonera, Merida-La Azulita road, 2200 m, 1976, *Hale* 46870 (US). Tachira: Via Villa Paez-Betania, valley of Paramo de Tama, 2000 m, 1975, *Hale & Lopez-Figueiras* 45131B (US).

### *Usnea entviolata* Motyka

*Lich. Gen. Usnea Stud. Monogr. Pars Syst.* 2: 560 (1938); type: USA, Hawaii, *Bailey* (W!—holotype). % C/M/A: 9.5/28.5/24. Chemistry: usnic, barbatic, diffractaic and traces of squamatic acids (Clerc 2004).

(Figs 2G, 3H)

*Thallus* subpendulous to pendulous (rarely erect-shrubby), to more than 50 cm long, usually relatively stiff; ramifications mainly anisotomic-dichotomous; trunk concolorous with the branches or brownish on the first mm; main branches tapering to irregular; segments terete to slightly flattened in cross-section, rarely slightly inflated; lateral branches not constricted at the attachment point; foveoles and maculae absent; papillae absent or few, hemispherical; tubercles absent or few; fibrils 2–3 (5) mm long, scattered to abundantly distributed on the thallus; *soralia* developing from the cortex *ad initio*, circular and slightly stipitate, minute to enlarging to the branch diameter, becoming excavate at maturity and sometimes encircling the terminal branches, with a regular outline while keeping a cortical margin (except when deeply excavate), usually remaining well-delimited even when crowded on the branches, without or with few, short isidiomorphs (Fig.



3H); *cortex* hard and vitreous in section, moderately thick to thick (7.5–12.0%); *medulla* dense to compact, moderately thick (19.0–26.5%), with a pink (29, 30, 36, 37 in Isley 1987) to rose (38) pigmentation towards the cortex, and a white to pale yellow (1) pigmentation towards the axis (Fig. 2G), reacting C+ yellow; *axis* moderately thin (29.5–40.5%).

*Apothecia* very rare ( $n = 1$ ), subterminal to terminal.

*Pycnidia* not seen.

*Diagnostic notes.* *Usnea entoviolata* is characterized by a stiff, sub-pendulous to pendulous thallus, with tapering to irregular branches bearing circular soralia, enlarging to the branch diameter and excavate at maturity, without or with few short isidiomorphs. The cortex surface is relatively smooth, with few papillae or tubercles. In longitudinal section, the cortex is very hard and vitreous and the medulla is pigmented pink to rose/white to yellowish, reacting C+ yellow. Diffractaic acid or (more rarely) barbatic acid are the major metabolites detected in the medulla by TLC (Table 2).

*Variation.* The abundance of papillae, tubercles and fibrils is variable, although the majority of specimens tend to have a smooth cortex with few papillae and scattered fibrils. Soralia of all sizes are present on lateral branches: minute to circular, with a distinct cortical margin, later enlarging to the branch diameter and excavating at maturity, sometimes encircling the terminal branches. The medullary pigmentation varies between several tones of pink to rose (see above) and the pale yellow pigment is often invisible, but the C+ yellow reaction of the medulla is distinctive.

*Differentiation.* *Usnea ceratina* shares a similar morphology, medullary pigmentation and range of chemotypes with *U. entoviolata*. It differs in the ontogeny and morphology of soralia (Clerc 2004): in *U. ceratina* soralia grow from the top of tubercles, thus they are distinctly stipitate, and they bear numerous isidiomorphs. Soralia eventually fuse or enlarge almost to the branch diameter, but in that case they are convex, and they remain

distinctly stipitate (never becoming excavate) and of irregular outline (not circular). In addition, the cortex surface of *U. ceratina* is usually covered by numerous papillae and tubercles and tends to appear less smooth than in *U. entoviolata*. *Usnea ceratina* also has a greater variation in the morphology of branches: segments are terete, flattened or ridged and branches are sometimes inflated and constricted at the attachment point. Such a morphotype was never observed in *U. entoviolata*.

*Ecology and distribution.* This is primarily a corticolous species that is often also saxicolous. In tropical South America, it was found at a wide altitudinal range (450–3000 m), in relatively open habitats (pastures with forest relicts, deforested zones of *matorral*, upper tree limit), usually in humid places within forest or in the vicinity of the forest, but also in drier climates, for example in the inter-Andean valleys or in the Brazilian *cerrado*. In contrast to *U. ceratina*, it seems to be more common in Brazil than in the Andes. *Usnea entoviolata* is known from North America, the Caribbean region, Africa, Hawaii (Clerc 2004) and south-western Europe (P. Clerc, unpublished data). It is reported here from South America for the first time.

*Selected specimens examined.* **Bolivia:** La Paz: Parque Nacional Alto Madidi, Queara, 3005 m, 2007, Truong 2843 (G). **Santa Cruz:** Prov. Florida, refugio Los Volcanes, 1000 m, 1997, Bach, Kessler, Gonzales & Rapp 633 (B).—**Brazil:** Mato Grosso: Serra dos Coroados, c. 6 km südwestlich von Buriti, 600 m, 1980, Kalb (private hb.). Minas Gerais: Bei Lagoa Dourada, c. 50 km nordöstlich von São João del Rei, 1000 m, 1978, Kalb & Plöbst (private hb.). Parana: Ambrósios, mun. Tijucas do Sul, 900 m, 1991, Kummrow & Cordeiro 3282 (B). **Rio de Janeiro:** Serra da Mantiqueira, Parque Nacional do Itatiaia, 850 m, 1978, Kalb & Plöbst (private hb.). São Paulo: Reserva biológica de Mogi-Guaçu, fazenda Campininha, 640 m, 2007, Jungbluth 1719 (SP).—**Colombia:** Boyaca: near Arcabuco, c. 1 km on the road towards Tunja, 2600 m, 1986, Sipman & Reyes 34445 (B). **Cundinamarca:** Mnpio. Tena, laguna de Pedro Palo, 2000 m, 1984, Aguirre & Sipman 5640C (B). **Huila:** Mnpio. La Plata, vereda La Candelaria, finca Merenberg, 2400 m, 1984, Aguirre & Sipman 5729 (B). **Nariño:** Munic. Imues, on road Pasto-Tumaco, 1880 m, 1986, Sipman, Velosa et al. 33545 (B).—**Peru:** Cajamarca: Parque Nacional Cutervo, La Capilla, sector cerro Pampa, 2237 m, 2007, Truong 1708 (G). **Cusco:** Ruinen von Machu-Picchu, 1960, Mattick 120B (B).—**Venezuela:** Merida: La Carbonera, sector El Pedregel, 2100 m,

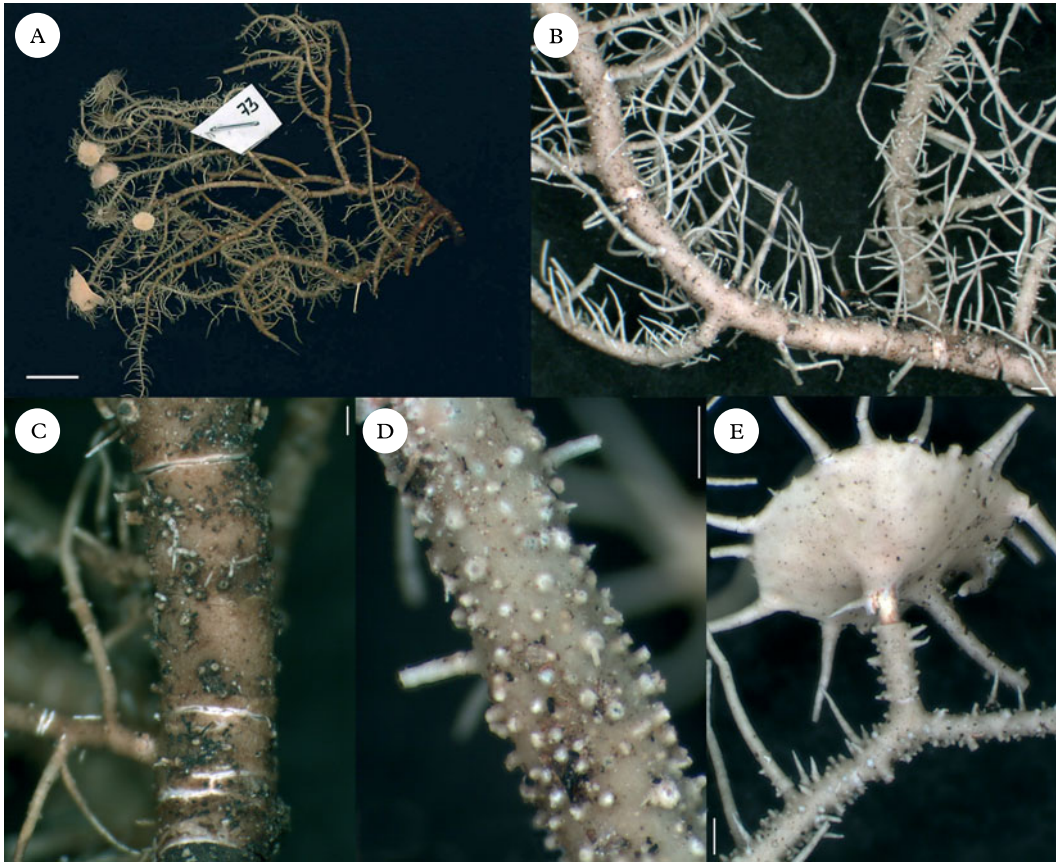


FIG. 4. *Usnea flavorubescens*; A, holotype; B, branches tapering to irregular in diameter, with slightly flattened segments (Truong 2080); C, base concolorous with few annular cracks (Truong 2080); D, numerous fiberclcs covering the branches (holotype); E, fibrils and fiberclcs on branches below apothecia (Truong 624). Scales: A = 1 cm; B–E = 500  $\mu$ m.

1975, Hale & Lopez-Figueiras 44160 (US). *Tachira*: Via Villa Paez-Betania, valley of paramo de Tama, 2000 m, 1975, Hale & Lopez-Figueiras 45090 (US).

***Usnea flavorubescens* Truong & P. Clerc  
sp. nov.**

MycoBank No: MB 563324

Thallus non-sorediate (usually with apothecia), fiberclcs abundant, medulla pigmented with yellow periaxial layer, orange to red outer layer and white subcortical layer, norstictic acid in the medulla.

Type: Peru, Cusco, santuario histórico de Machu Picchu, Wiñaywayna, alrededores de la estacion biologica, 2685 m, bosque de neblina montano (secundario), sobre ramas y troncos, 2007, Truong 2067 (USM—holotype;

G—isotype). % C/M/A: 13-5/20/34. Chemistry: usnic and norstictic acids, traces of unidentified tri-terpenoids UT18.

(Figs 2H, 4A–E)

*Thallus* erect-shrubby to subpendulous, to 15 cm long; ramifications mainly anisotomic-dichotomous; trunk concolorous with the branches or dark brown on the first mm; branches tapering to irregular. (Fig. 4B), with few annular cracks, mainly visible close to the base of the thallus (Fig. 4C); segments terete to slightly flattened, not inflated; lateral branches not constricted at the attach-

ment point; foveoles and maculae absent; papillae and tubercles absent or scarce; fibrils 2–3 mm long (up to 5 mm), scattered to abundantly and regularly distributed on the thallus; fiberclles conspicuous and often abundant, especially on terminal branches supporting apothecia (Fig 4D–E); *soralia* absent; *cortex* hard and shiny, but relatively opaque or ‘milky’ (not vitreous) in section, moderately thick to thick (9–13%); medulla dense (but never compact), moderately thin to moderately thick (20–29%), with the following pigmentation (Fig. 2H): a yellow (2–3 in Isley 1987) periaxial layer reacting C+ yellow-orange (11–12–13), encircled by an orange to red (25–26–27–28–32) outer layer that is well-separated from the cortex by a layer of white medullary tissue; axis moderately thin (22–34%); *apothecia* usually present ( $n = 4$ ), subterminal to terminal, with numerous long cilia; spores hyaline, obovoid,  $7.0\text{--}10.5 \times 5\text{--}7 \mu\text{m}$  ( $n = 30$ ).

*Pycnidia* rare, usually present when apothecia are missing ( $n = 1$ ), appearing as small globose protuberances on terminal branches.

*Diagnostic notes.* *Usnea flavorubescens* is a non-sorediate species (usually with apothecia), with a characteristic pigmentation of

the medulla, forming a yellow periaxial layer reacting C+ yellow-orange, encircled by an orange to red outer layer that is well-separated from the cortex by a layer of white medullary tissue (Fig. 2H). It has slightly irregular branches (Fig. 4B) with conspicuous, often numerous fiberclles (Fig. 4D & E), a hard and shiny, but relatively opaque (not vitreous) cortex and norstictic acid detected in the medulla by TLC (Table 2).

*Differentiation.* See under *U. cristatula* for differences with *U. flavorubescens*.

*Ecology and distribution.* This corticolous or saxicolous species occurs in relatively open places within evergreen low montane forests and montane cloud forests or in deforested zones of *matorral*. It is so far endemic to Peru, found at two localities in the northern and the south-eastern part of the country (2000–2700 m altitude).

*Specimens examined.* **Peru:** *Cajamarca:* Cerca de Chachapoyas, distrito San Pablo de Valera, catarata Gocta, 1995 m, 2007, *Truong* 624 (G). *Cusco:* Santuario histórico de Machu Picchu, Wiñaywayna, subiendo a las ruinas de Intipata, 2689 m, 2007, *Truong* 3862 (G) and 2704 m, *Truong* 2080 (G); alrededores de Wiñaywayna, 2704 m, 2007, *Truong* 684 (G).

### Key to *Usnea* species with a pigmented, C+ yellow medulla from tropical South America

- 1 Axis distinctly tubular throughout the thallus . . . . . Eumitrioid species (not treated here)
- Axis solid, rarely fistulose towards the base . . . . . 2
- 2(1) *Soralia* present; apothecia absent or rare; tubercles numerous and fiberclles absent or very few . . . . . 3
- Soralia* absent; apothecia usually present, if not, pycnidia typically present as spherical protuberances at the tips of branches; either tubercles or fiberclles abundant. . . . . 4
- 3(2) *Soralia* growing from low tubercles (distinctly stipitate), remaining minute or eventually fusing or enlarging to more than the half-branch diam., with a  $\pm$  irregular outline, capitate at maturity (never excavate); isidiomorphs usually numerous . . . . . ***U. ceratina***
- Soralia* growing from the cortex *ad initio* (slightly stipitate), minute to enlarging to the branch diameter at maturity, circular and remaining well-delimited while keeping a cortical margin (except when deeply excavate), plane to excavate at maturity; isidiomorphs absent or few . . . . . ***U. entoviolata***

- 4(2) Pigmentation forming three well-delimited layers (yellow, orange-red and white from the axis to the cortex); fiberclcs numerous; norstictic acid present . . . . . **U. flavorubescens**  
 . . . . .  
 Pigmentation pink to rose (rarely purple) towards the cortex and white to pale yellow towards the axis; fiberclcs absent or very few, instead with numerous tubercles; norstictic acid absent. . . . . **U. cristatula**

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