

This is true for instance of the highly important evergreen *Scalesia* forests. The genus *Scalesia* (*Compositae*) is endemic to the Galapagos. Some species grow into trees, the most common of which is *S. pendunculata*. It occurs on Santa Cruz, San Cristóbal, Santiago and Floreana and it is in these last two islands that it is under the most immediate threat from introduced animals. On Santiago the situation is so grave that it has been necessary to protect a few mature individuals with goat-proof fences. On Floreana there are still some small populations but these are under pressure from the aggressive *Psidium guajava* and *Lantana camara* (see Noticias 43). Fortunately on Santa Cruz large stable forests remain.

The GNPS and the CDRS are currently engaged on assessments both of the *Scalesia* situation and of the more aggressive introduced species. It seems inevitable that if action cannot be taken some Galapagos species will become extinct. For instance on Floreana there are, or were, several species never found anywhere else: *Psychotria angustata*, only collected twice; *Lippia salicifolia*, not found for many years; *Darwiniothamnus tenuifolius*, now reduced to very small populations. Henning Adersen (pers. com.) estimates that perhaps 100 of the 500 native Galapagos species are vulnerable if not actually endangered. Their preservation depends on the availability of adequate human and financial resources.

### **SCALESIA GORDILLOI** **A NEW GALAPAGOS PLANT SPECIES**

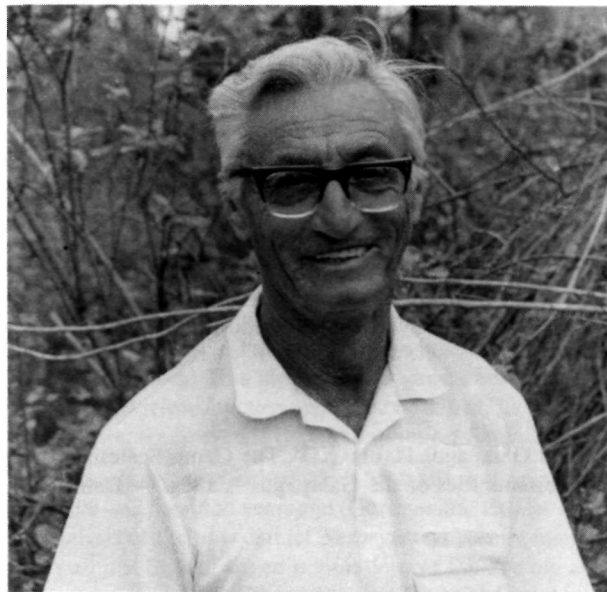
by

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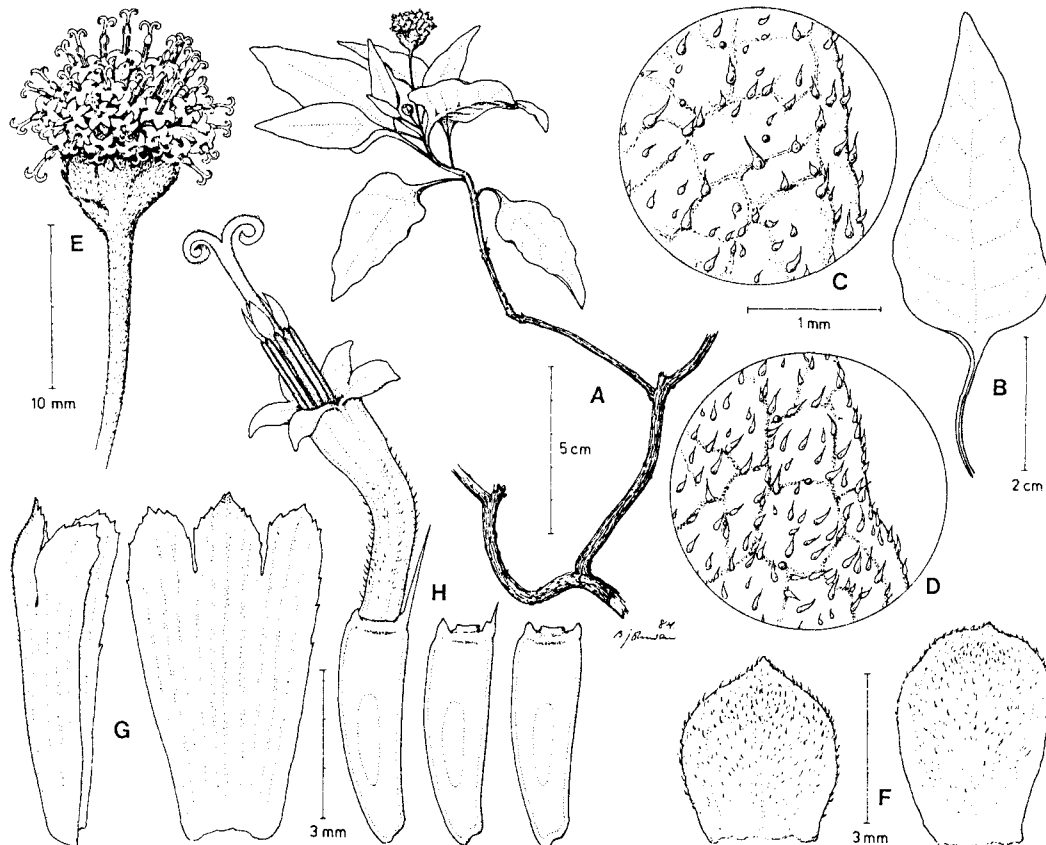
During a visit to the Galapagos in 1982 for the purpose of studying the mangrove communities we were escorted round San Cristóbal by Señor Jacinto Gordillo, a local teacher and naturalist, who has long been the resident representative of the Charles Darwin Research Station in that island. He drew our attention to a species of *Scalesia* near Puerto Baquerizo, the administrative capital of the archipelago, which he considered to be a hitherto undescribed species. Subsequent study has shown that his acute powers of observation had led him to a correct diagnosis and we therefore decided to name the new species in his honour, *Scalesia gordilloi*.



Jacinto Gordillo, a resident of San Cristóbal,  
who for many years has represented the CDRS in that island.

The genus *Scalesia* is endemic to the Galapagos and, with the inclusion of *S. gordilloi*, now contains 15 species (21 taxa). The *Scalesias* are erect, usually single-stemmed shrubs or small trees from 0.3 to 15 metres in height. Their morphological diversity is paralleled by their diversity of habitat (Eliasson 1974, Hamann 1981) ranging from the humid highlands to the restricted area of loose lava rocks in the arid coastal zone, to which the new species is confined. Few Galapagos islands are without representatives of the genus and a number of islands have more than one. San Cristóbal now has 4 but none of these overlaps with *S. gordilloi*.

*S. gordilloi* is easily recognised by the combination of entire leaves with minute glands, few-flowered, relatively small heads and small paleae (Fig. 1). It grows to a height of about 1.5 metres.



*Scalesia gordilloi*, type specimen.

A: Flowering shoot. B: Fully developed leaf. C: Upper surface of leaf. D: Under surface of leaf.

E: Head. F: Phyllaries. G: Paleae.

H: Flower and fruits, the fruits with variously developed pappus, either as pointed sets or as blunt callosities.

#### REFERENCES

- Eliasson, U. (1974) Studies in Galapagos Plants. XIV. The Genus *Scalesia* Arn. — *Opera Botanica* 36.  
 Hamann, O. (1981) Plant Communities of the Galapagos Islands. — *Dansk Bot Arkiv* 34(2).