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Reid Moran
San Diego Museum of Natural History

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FRAXINUS PARRYI, NOM. NOV., OF NW BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO

REID MORAN

San Diego Museum of Natural History
San Diego, Calif. 92112
e-mail: aboersma@inreach.com

ABSTRACT

The common ash of NW Baja California is usually called *Fraxinus trifoliata*, as in Wiggins' (1980) flora of Baja California. That name is a misspelling of *F. trifoliolata*, which is a later homonym of *F. trifoliolata* W. W. Smith (1916). The Baja Californian ash is therefore renamed *Fraxinus parryi*. It has also been misidentified as *F. jonesii*. The common name is "crucecilla". This ash barely extends into San Diego County, California.

Key words: Baja California, California, *Fraxinus*, new name, Oleaceae, San Diego County.

INTRODUCTION

Two species of *Fraxinus* grow in northwest Baja California, Mexico: (1) two forms of *F. velutina* Torr., which are rather uncommon along streams southward to below the middle of the peninsula, and (2) *F. dipetala* var. *trifoliolata* Torr. or *F. "trifoliata"* (Torr.) Lewis and Epling, which is widespread and common in the northwest. It is the latter species that I am concerned with here.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fraxinus trifoliolata

Torrey (1859) named *F. dipetala* H. & A. var.? *trifoliolata* (sic) from a specimen collected by C. C. Parry in 1850 in "sterile mountains a few miles south of the Mexican line in Lower California". Torrey remarked that since the flowers of this ash and the fruit of *F. dipetala* were unknown, he was uncertain whether the two were distinct or were only extreme forms of one species. Sudworth (1908) and Standley (1924) listed the Baja Californian shrub as *F. dipetala trifoliolata*, Little (1953) called it variety *trifoliolata*, and Murray (1985) made it subspecies *trifoliolata*. Miller (1955) and Little (1979) called it a synonym of *F. dipetala*. Goldman (1916) misidentified it as *F. attenuata* M. E. Jones.

Lewis and Epling (1940) described this Baja Californian ash and compared it in detail with *F. dipetala* H. & A. of Alta California, calling it a separate species rather than a variety. They found the leaves conspicuously different, with 1–3 leaflets rather than (3–) 5–9 and so averaging only 4.5 cm long as compared to 11.2 cm, the terminal leaflet averaging 1.5 times as long as the laterals rather than just as long, and the margins subentire rather than serrate. They also found small floral differences, notably the petals averaging 3.3 mm wide, rather than 2.2 mm; the petals and filaments fused into a tube 0.6–1.5 mm long, rather than fused lightly at the base or rarely forming a tube; the filaments 0.4–1.0 mm long above the fusion, rather than 0.8–2.8 mm long; the style averaging as long as the stigma, rather than 1.4 times as long. Wiggins (1964, 1980) and others likewise have treated this ash as a distinct species, and I agree. Wiggins (1980) showed a drawing of it as his figure 413.

Lewis and Epling (and likewise Wiggins and others) wrote the name as *F. "trifoliata"* (Torr.) Lewis & Epl. Because they were making a new combination, however, and not intentionally coining a new name, their name is correctly spelled "*F. trifoliolata*", as shown, for example, by Little (1953, 1979). It is therefore a later homonym of *F. trifoliolata* W. W. Smith (1916), a Chinese ash. Since this Baja Californian species thus seems to have no legitimate name, I propose to call it *Fraxinus parryi*, nom. nov., based on *F. dipetala* var.? *trifoliolata* Torr. (1859: 167); holotype: Lower California, lat. 32°, C. C. Parry, 1850, Torrey Herbarium (NY). It is named for the first collector, C. C. Parry (1823–1890), botanist and plant explorer.

Fraxinus parryi

Fraxinus parryi is a shrub or small tree widespread in NW Baja California (Fig. 1), from near sea level to at least 950 m near Valle Trinidad toward the west base of the Sierra Juárez, and to 1200 m near El Socorro, in the western foothills of the Sierra San Pedro Mártir; and from just north of the Mexican boundary near Lyons Valley, San Diego County, California (Beauchamp 1986), south to Cerro San Juan de Dios (30°09'N) at 1360 m and to near Rancho Arenoso (30°05'N) at 450 m. It is often common, especially on north slopes, in open mixed chaparral and in the chaparral-sagescrub interface, standing conspicuously

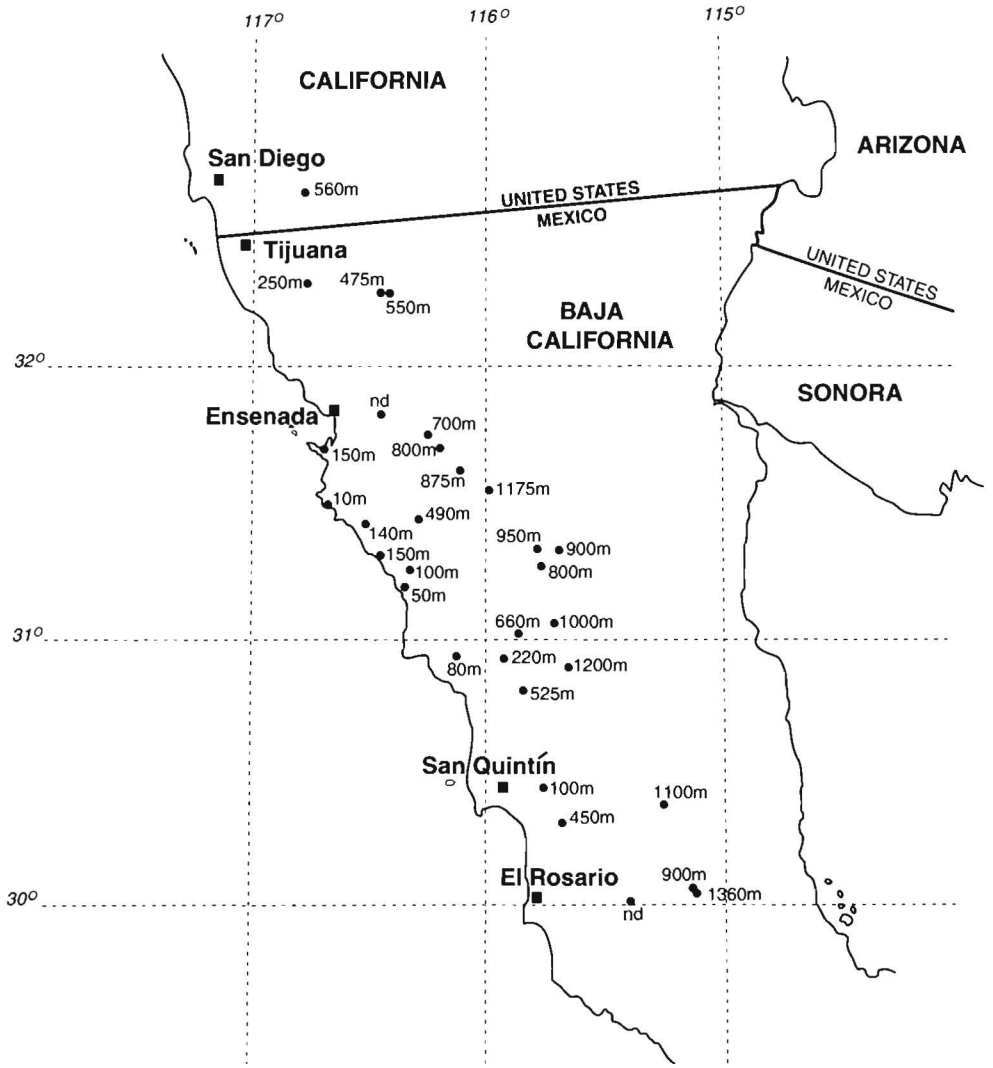

Fig. 1. Distribution of *Fraxinus parryi,* based on specimens in the herbarium of the San Diego Museum of Natural History (SD).

above most or all the other shrubs. Lewis and Epling (1940) wrote that it does not usually grow within typical chaparral but is generally peripheral or associated with, but apparently not genuinely a part of, the coastal sage. Towards its upper limit it sometimes grows with *Adenostoma sparsifolium* Torr. and with *Juniperus californica* Carr.; and southward it barely enters the desert, growing with *Fouquieria columnaris* (Kell.) Curran and *Pachycereus pringlei* (Engelm.) Britt. & Rose. Baja Californians at several widely separated places called it "crucecilla", and no other common name is recorded.

California floras overlooked this ash until Beauchamp (1986) listed it as rare in San Diego County, known only from a collection [SD!] from between Lyons Valley and Lawson Valley. I later collected it in the same area (*Moran 31094* SD). Simpson and Rebman (2001) now show it for San Diego County, but the Jepson Manual (Hickman 1993) omits it.

Fraxinus jonesii

Beauchamp (1986) identified the San Diego County ash with *F. trifoliolata* (Torr.) Lewis & Epl. non W. W. Sm., but he took up for it the name of *F. jonesii* Lingelsh. Lingelsheim (1920: 35) based *F. jonesii* on two collections, without naming either as the holotype and without citing any herbarium. Dr. W. Stojanowska, curator of Lingelsheim's home herbarium (WRSL), wrote me in 1992 that the type specimen of *F. jonesii* was not there; he supposed that part of the collection of Oleaceae was lost during World War II. The two collections Lingelsheim cited for *F. jonesii,* and thus the two syntypes, are: Valley of Palms, Mexico, *Jones 3740 ex parte*; and Chihuahua, *Pringle 137 ex parte.* Since he said flowers and fruit were unknown, both specimens must be sterile. Hence it may seem reckless for him to have based a new species on these collections or even to call them the same species. Although the epithet *jonesii* might suggest that the Jones collec-

tion be selected as lectotype, that is not an automatic choice.

Marcus E. Jones's own herbarium at Pomona has one specimen (POM 76344) of *Jones 3740,* Valley of Palms, Lower California, April 8, 1882. This has glabrous leaves with 1–3 unequal leaflets, the leaflets—especially the terminal one—markedly attenuate-petiolulate; and it bears flowers with two petals: clearly it is *F. parryi.* However, Lingelsheim's description of *F. jonesii* includes the phrases "*folia . . . 1–2-juga*" and "*foliola . . . sessilia vel fere sessilia . . . utrinque, imprimis subtus, longius albido-pilosa*". His rather crude figure 9G shows a leaf with 5 subequal and subsessile leaflets and with conspicuous spreading short pubescence. Lingelsheim's description and figure could not be based on *Jones 3740* as that is represented at POM and also at CAS and DS; so *F. jonesii* Lingels. clearly has nothing to do with *F. parryi.*

On the other hand, remarkably, Lingelsheim (1920: 33) based *F. schiedeana* var. *palmarum* Lingelsh. on *Jones 3740 ex parte* from the Valley of Palms, and his figure 9A of this variety shows a flowering plant like *F. parryi,* though one leaf has five leaflets! Again he cited no herbarium. Lingelsheim (1920: 32) also listed *F. dipetala* var. *trifoliolata* Torr., which he said was unknown to him but was perhaps an independent species.

What could be the source of the confusion? At or near the Valley of Palms (Valle de las Palmas) on April 8, 1882, Marcus E. Jones collected not only *F. parryi* (number *3740*) but also two forms of *F. velutina.* His number *3741* he labeled as *F. pistaciaefolia* Torr. var. but later (Jones 1908) named *F. attenuata* n. sp. Specimens I have seen of *3741* (CAS, DS, POM) have 3–5 attenuate glabrous leaflets. Jones also made two unnumbered collections of a pubescent form of *F. velutina* with 5–7 wider leaflets, one (DS, POM) also on April 8 but labeled "Northern Lower California", the other (CAS) at Valley of Palms but on the return trip, April 15. Possibly the syntype of *F. jonesii* that Lingelsheim listed as *Jones 3740 ex parte* was mislabeled and instead corresponded to the pubescent second unnumbered collection of *F. velutina*—though the pubescence is not spreading as in Lingelsheim's figure 9G, and the leaflets number more than 3–5. The location of this specimen is unknown.

Lingelsheim's other syntype of *Fraxinus jonesii* was *Pringle 137 ex parte,* whose location also is unknown. According to Lingelsheim (1920: 26), *Pringle 137* otherwise is *F. cuspidata* Torr. from Chihuahua, which seems to differ from *F. jonesii* in its glabrous long-petiolulate and long-acuminate leaflets. But what *Pringle 137 ex parte* may be remains a mystery.

CONCLUSIONS

Thus known specimens of *Jones 3740* and *Pringle 137* are both quite different from the description and drawing of *F. jonesii.* By a remarkable and unfortunate coincidence, both syntypes of *F. jonesii,* cited as *Jones 3740 ex parte* and *Pringle 137 ex parte,* evidently were labeled incorrectly as to the collector's field number, making those collections even more difficult to track down. Possibly these two syntypes of *F. jonesii* were lost with other specimens, as in the Berlin herbarium during World War II. On the other hand, perhaps as more collections are entered into databases, these two lost syntypes may come to light, the name of *Fraxinus jonesii* can be lectotypified, and this name can find its proper place in synonymy. What is important here, however, is that *F. jonesii* clearly has nothing to do with *F. parryi* and so can be excluded from the discussion of this Baja Californian ash.

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