

The Flora of Ecuador, identifying new species of the genus *Anthurium* sect. *Polyneurium*
(Araceae) of Carchi Province (Ecuador)

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This study of the Araceae in Carchi Province is restricted to *Anthurium* sect. *Polyneurium* (Araceae). This is one of the more poorly known sections in the genus. The work will not only contribute to our understanding of the biogeography of Ecuador but will be a direct benefit to the completion of the Araceae treatment for the Flora of Ecuador. All *Anthurium* section *Polyneurium* specimens that were collected from Carchí were organized into 10 sections by Dr. Croat. All specimens in each section were organized into groups based on overall similarity as well as by location, elevation and conservative characters (# of basal veins, # of basal veins free to the base, color of spadix at anthesis, dried color upon analysis, shape of the blade, sinus, spathe and spadix, qualitative features, etc.). After writing descriptions for these new species the descriptive features were compiled into a key detailing their differences. All species, including distinct species which could not be published owing to inadequate specimens were included in hopes that others will use this work to make further collections which will then enable the remaining species to be published. This key shall aid future identification of species in this region, eventually enriching the botanical knowledge of this region and to allow a treatment of the Araceae for the entire country.