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ELUCIDATING THE *Manihot carthagenensis* SPECIES COMPLEX

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Manihot Mill. (Euphorbiaceae) is a Neotropical genus with 98 species recognized to date. *Manihot carthagenensis* is a very polymorphic species, thus detaining several synonyms. Currently, morphological criteria associated with geographic distribution distinguish three infraspecific taxa within the species complex: *M. carthagenensis* subsp. *carthagenensis*, *M. carthagenensis* subsp. *glaziovii*, and *M. carthagenensis* subsp. *hahnii*. Herein, we assembled multilocus sequence data and used Bayesian phylogenetic analyses to resolve this species complex further. Four nuclear loci (*g3pdh*, *metE*, *nia-i3*, and *sts*) were amplified and sequenced from a total of 48 specimens, which represented the *M. carthagenensis* complex and additional ten congeners. Molecular data did not support the monophyly of the *M. carthagenensis* complex as presently circumscribed. *Manihot carthagenensis* subsp. *hahnii* was distantly related to the remaining member of the complex. The other specimens comprised a monophyletic clade, which split further into three subclades. Two of those subclades were indistinguishable from each other based on morphology alone; we refrained from attributing them distinct taxonomic placements. In contrast, the third subclade was genetically and morphologically distinct; it corresponded to the specie *M. glaziovii*. Therefore, this study re-described two species (*M. carthagenensis* and *M. glaziovii*) and proposed a new combination (*M. hahnii* comb. nov.).

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