

The genus Weingartia

Populations with a field number LB (VI)

Ludwig Bercht

Departing from Sucre, a ride to Sotomayor on the Rio Pilcomayo and back is a wonderful day trip. After Yamparaez on the road from Sucre to the tourist town of Tarabuco, a road of about 38 km leads south to Sotomayor. Several times we stopped to examine cacti and at the end enjoy the panorama of the Rio Pilcomayo.

LB 3605 - W. neocumingii

This weingartia, growing on the rocks above the Rio Khata Mayu near Khota, we had already found in 2005. The collection number at the time is LB 2971. *Parodia multicostata* Ritt. & Jelinek (LB 3604), sympatric species here, was already found by Ritter in 1958, but only described in 1980.







LB 3607 - W. neocumingii

About 5 km south of Khota we see whitish tufts in the rock face. We immediately think of blossfeldias and that turns out to be right. We take many photos of these fascinating plants. Gymnos, echinopsis and weingartias grow on the rock face. The coordinates (recorded on a subsequent visit) are 19°16.05'S 65°00.57'W and the altitude is 2530 m.





LB 3610 - W. neocumingii

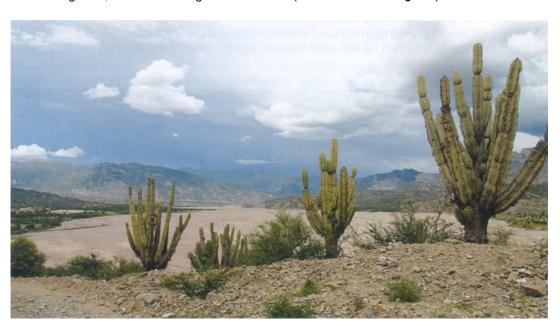
The road continues along the rocks at the edge of a river bed. Before arriving in Sotomayor, a village on the Rio Pilcomayo, we find this weingartia 3 km north of it. Gymnocalyciums are not lacking here either.





LB 3612 - W. neocumingii

Just at the northern edge of the village of Sotomayor, we again find gymnos and weingartias, but now also large columnar cacti (*Neoraimondia herzogiana*).

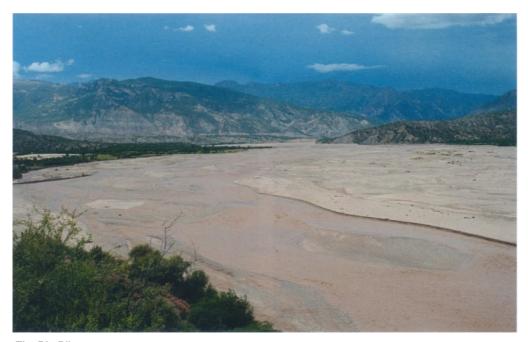


LB 3614 - W. neocumingii

The same weingartias and gymnocalyciums once again grow on the Rio Pilcomayo on a gentle slope west of Sotomayor. Imposing columns of *Neoraimondia herzogiana* dominate the landscape.







The Rio Pilcomayo

LB 3625 - W. neocumingii

As a tourist, you must have done Tarabuco and especially its market. The site is located approximately 60 kilometers by road east of Sucre. From there, a road leads southeast to Icla. At the place where we stop, 5 km north of Icla, we find a variety of globular cacti: Lobivia, Parodia, Echinopsis and Weingartia. But also Cleistocactus and other columnar cacti.





LB 3627

The same palette of cactus species can also be found directly south of Icla, complemented here by gymnos.





LB 3639 - W. gracilispina

On the road from Potosi to Sucre, where the road leaves the Rio Chico valley, Friedrich Ritter found weingartias there in 1959, which he described in 1980 as *W. gracilispina*. Knowing this, it is therefore not difficult to identify our find. Here we also find *Echinopsis sucrensis* and on a later visit we will also find parodias. On this subsequent visit, we can record the coordinates: 19°00.36'S 65°10.44'W.

To be continued.





Front page : Weingartia neocumingii LB 3614 Photo : Ludwig Bercht

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