



The transfer of *Vernonia perangusta* to the genus *Vernonanthura* (Vernonieae, Asteraceae) and the correct name for *Vernonanthura phosphorica*

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Abstract

The size and geographical distribution of the genus *Vernonia*, tribe Vernonieae, has been greatly reduced as a result of several revisionary studies. All species of *Vernonia* are now confined to the New World with the vast majority in continental North America. Of the South American species that were not placed in other genera in these treatments, but remained in *Vernonia* [i.e., *V. echioides* (Paraguay, Uruguay), *V. greggii* (Mexico), *V. incana* (Paraguay, Uruguay), *V. perangusta* (Brazil), *V. rubioides* (Brazil)], few have been studied in detail to confirm their generic status. Our work shows that *V. perangusta* is a member of the genus *Vernonanthura* and is hereby transferred to that genus. We also studied the widespread and variable taxon known originally as *Vernonia polyanthes*. This species was transferred to *Vernonanthura* as *V. phosphorica* (based on *Chrysocoma phosphorica*), but the name *Eupatorium polyanthes* has priority over *Chrysocoma phosphorica* and thus a new combination for that taxon is also required in *Vernonanthura*.

Key words: Brazil, Compositae, *Lepidaploa* complex

Introduction

The tribe Vernonieae Cassini (1819: 203) is one of the largest in the Asteraceae Berchtold & Presl (1820: 254) with about 1700 species distributed in the tropical regions of Asia, Africa and America (Robinson 2007, Keeley & Robinson 2009). It presents two major centers of diversification, one in southern Brazil and the other in tropical Africa. The Vernonieae are, from a taxonomic viewpoint, considered to be one of the most complex groups within the Asteraceae (Keeley *et al.* 2007). Discussions have mainly centered around the delimitation of *Vernonia* Schreber (1791: 541), the core genus of the tribe (Bremer 1994, Robinson 1999).

All species of *Vernonia* are now confined to the New World with the vast majority in continental North America. Of the South American species that were not placed in other genera in Robinson's 1999 treatment, but remained in *Vernonia* [i.e., *V. echioides* Lessing (1829: 278) from Paraguay and Uruguay, *V. greggii* Gray (1882: 204) from Mexico, *V. incana* Lessing (1829: 277) from Paraguay and Uruguay), *V. perangusta* Malme (1933: 21) from Brazil, *V. rubioides* Lessing (1829: 289) from Brazil], few have been studied in detail to confirm their generic status (Dematteis & Angulo 2010). Two of these species are the subject of this paper. *Vernonia polyanthes* (Spreng.) Lessing (1931: 651) and *V. perangusta*. The first is a relatively common species widely distributed in Brazil, and was considered a later name for *Chrysocoma phosphorica* Vellozo (1825: 325), renamed *Vernonanthura phosphorica* (Vell.) Robinson (1992: 73). *Chrysocoma phosphorica* (Vellozo 1825), is apparently an earlier name of *Eupatorium polyanthes* Sprengel (1826: 414). However, Carauta (1973) reported the effective publication date for Vellozo species described in the *Florae fluminesis* as 1829. Therefore, the name *Eupatorium polyanthes* takes priority over *Chrysocoma phosphorica* and consequently, a new combination is required to accommodate this taxon in *Vernonanthura*.