



***Centaurea stuessyi* (Compositae: Cardueae), a new species from the eastern Iberian Peninsula**

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Abstract

Centaurea stuessyi is described as new to science from the eastern Iberian Peninsula, Spain. The range of this new species coincides with the zone of overlap of the ranges of two related species, *C. antennata* (subsp. *antennata*) and *C. linifolia*. The chromosome number found in the new species ($2n = 44$) reinforces its differences from *C. linifolia* ($2n = 22$) and *C. antennata* ($2n = 22$). The new species is compared with related species, and a description is given of its ecological preferences.

Resumen

Centaurea stuessyi se describe como una nueva especie para el este de la Península Ibérica. El área de distribución de la nueva especie coincide con el área de solapamiento de distribución de dos especies relacionadas con la nueva: *C. antennata* subsp. *antennata* y *C. linifolia*. El número cromosómico hallado para la nueva especie ($2n = 44$), refuerza la diferenciación de *C. linifolia* ($2n = 22$) y *C. antennata* ($2n = 22$). La nueva especie es comparada con las especies relacionadas y se describe las preferencias ecológicas de la misma.

Key words: Asteraceae, *Centaurea antennata*, *Centaurea linifolia*, chromosome counts, Iberian Peninsula, Spain, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Centaurea* Linnaeus (1753: 909) is one of the most diversified of the Asteraceae family, and in its current circumscription comprises nearly 250 species (Susanna & Garcia-Jacas 2007) distributed mainly in the Mediterranean region and SW Asia, with a good representation in Europe and Africa. The group *Jacea* (Wagenitz 1955, Garcia-Jacas *et al.* 2001), the most diversified group in the genus with a number of subclades being recognized (Garcia-Jacas *et al.* 2000, 2006), includes *C. sect. Jacea* (Miller 1754: 663) Persoon (1807: 484) and *C. sect. Lepteranthus* (Candolle 1810: 158) Dumortier (1827: 73), whose definition has differed according to authors (vide Willkomm 1865, Dostál 1976, Arnelas & Devesa 2011) and whose recognition has not been supported by phylogenetic studies (Garcia-Jacas *et al.* 2006).

Centaurea sect. Lepteranthus includes the species in which the appendage is linear-subulate or triangular-subulate, and usually more or less arcuate-reflexed. Its taxonomic knowledge in the Iberian Peninsula is mainly based on the generic treatments of Willkomm (1865), Dostál (1976) and especially on the work of Arnelas & Devesa (2012), together with various partial contributions that have gone towards completing those treatments (Laínz 1967, 1976, Bolòs & Vigo 1988, 1995, López-Alvarado *et al.* 2012), as well as on studies of its chromosomal (Gardou 1972, Fernández Casas 1976, Valdés Bermejo & Gómez García 1976, Fernández