



A new species of *Mikania* (Asteraceae, Eupatorieae) from the Western Cordillera of Colombia

JOSÉ AGUILAR-CANO¹ & SANTIAGO DÍAZ-PIEDRAHÍTA¹

¹Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Apartado 7495, Bogotá, Colombia.
email: jraguilarc@unal.edu.co

Abstract

A new species of *Mikania* from the northern area of the Western Cordillera of Colombia is described and illustrated. Taxonomic affinities with its closest relatives *M. lloensis* and *M. flabellata* are discussed. The diagnostic traits of the new species are: the long peduncle of the synflorescence; the size of the head; the presence of a midvein in the corolla lobes; the presence of moniliform, multicellular, uniseriate trichomes below the commissural sinuses of the corolla lobes; the insertion of the stamens at the mid-level of the hypocrateriform corolla; and the retuse apical appendages of the anthers. The latter trait is newly used here as diagnostic in the genus.

Key words: Compositae, páramo de Frontino endemism, Mikaniinae, páramo flora

Introduction

The genus *Mikania* Willdenow (1803: 1742), the only member of the subtribe Mikaniinae, is characterized by having heads formed by four involucre bracts and four flowers, and subtended by subinvolucre bracts (King & Robinson 1987). Mikaniinae, the largest subtribe of Eupatorieae (King & Robinson 1987), contains ca. 450 species (Holmes 1996, Funk *et al.* 2009), which are primarily Neotropical. Until now, 62 species are recorded in Colombia (unpubl. data), which are distributed from the sea level to páramos at about 4000 m of elevation. However, the highest species richness occurs at middle elevations, between 1000 and 2500 m. During the taxonomic revision of the Colombian species of *Mikania*, a specimen collected in the northern part of the Western Cordillera does not match any of the previously described species of the genus. In this paper, that new species of *Mikania* is described and illustrated, along with comments on its taxonomic affinities and the following morphological traits that distinguish the species: peduncle of the synflorescence 13–25 cm long; heads to 17 × 5 mm; presence of a midvein in the corolla lobes; presence of moniliform, multicellular, uniseriate trichomes below the commissural sinuses formed by the corolla lobes; insertion of the stamens at the mid-level of the hypocrateriform corolla; and retuse apical appendages of the anthers.

Taxonomic treatment

Mikania betancurii J. Aguilar-Cano & S. Díaz, **sp. nov.**

Type:—COLOMBIA. Antioquia, municipio de Urrao, vereda El Chuscal “on trail to finca La Quince, above Urrao, 6°30'N, 76°10'W, 2500–2800 m, 21 November 1988, G. McPherson, F. J. Roldán & J. Betancur 13239 (holotype COL!, isotypes HUA!, MO).

Diagnosis:—*Mikania betancurii* is superficially similar to *M. flabellata* Rusby ex Robinson (1920: 14) and *M. lloensis* Hieronymus ex Sodiro (1901: 18) as they all have corymbiform synflorescences with strongly elongate peduncles and larger heads. The new species resembles *M. flabellata* in the overall shape and size of the heads and in the pappus with capillary bristles in 2 or more series; however, *M. betancurii* possesses hypocrateriform corollas, subcordate leaf blades, which are densely papillose below, and larger (13.8–15 × 3–3.4 mm) phyllaries (vs. narrowly