



A new combination and new synonym in the Neotropical Heliotropiaceae

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Abstract

A new combination in *Euploca* and a new synonym in *Tournefortia* (Heliotropiaceae) from the Neotropics are proposed here. *Heliotropium purdiei* is combined under the genus *Euploca* and *Tournefortia spicata* is proposed as a synonym of *T. romeroi*.

Key words: Heliotropiaceae, nomenclature, Boraginaceae *sensu lato*

Resumen

Se propone aquí una nueva combinación en *Euploca* y un nuevo sinónimo en *Tournefortia* (Heliotropiaceae) del Neotrópico. *Heliotropium purdiei* es combinada en el género *Euploca* y *Tournefortia spicata* es propuesta como sinónimo de *T. romeroi*.

Introduction

During a revision of Neotropical collections we encountered the type specimen of a species treated under *Heliotropium* Linnaeus (1753: 130) that showed morphological features of the genus *Euploca* Nuttall (1836: 189), as well as the type representing a species of *Tournefortia* Linnaeus (1753: 140) originally circumscribed to another specific name.

Hilger & Diane (2003) reestablished the genus *Euploca* based on molecular and morphological data to accommodate species of *Heliotropium* sect. *Orthostachys* R. Brown (1810: 493), *Hilgeria* Förther (1998: 132), and *Schleidenia* Endlicher (1839: 646). *Euploca* currently includes 53 names, but Diane (2003) observed that it comprises approximately 100 species distributed in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions, with centers of diversity in Africa, Australia, and tropical America. This author considered *Euploca* a cosmopolitan genus, but Melo & Semir (2010) pointed out that the majority of its species occur in South America and Mexico, where approximately 80 species can be found.

According to Hilger & Diane (2003), the representatives *Euploca* are herbs, small shrubs, often as least basally decumbent; inflorescences ebracteate, bracteate, frondose or reduced to a solitary flower; anthers long protracted with pubescent apex, coherent apically, closing the corolla tube; fruit dry, separating into one-seeded mericarps each with two pits on the abaxial side, rarely dry drupes with 4 one-seeded endocarps, and embryo curved.

In this context, the presence of bracteate inflorescences, anthers apically coherent, fruits separating into four one-seeded mericarps, and embryo curved in *Heliotropium purdiei* I.M.Johnst. (1928: 60), a Neotropical species of Heliotropiaceae native to Colombia and Venezuela (Miller 2015a), suggests its accommodation into *Euploca*. This work proposes the new combination of the above cited species of *Heliotropium* into the genus *Euploca*.

Regarding *Tournefortia*, we verified that one species, described for western Colombia as *T. spicata* J.S.Mill. (1989: 619), encompasses the morphological concepts of *T. romeroi* I.M.Johnst. (1956: 294), a species previously described for the above cited region. Thus, *T. spicata* is proposed here as a synonym of *T. romeroi*. The herbarium acronyms follow Thiers (2015).