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## NOTE ON THE NAME EUPATORIUM RUGOSUM

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It has recently been shown by Dr. E. D. Merrill<sup>1</sup> that *Eupatorium rugosum* Houtt. (1779) is the valid name for the common white snakeroot, long known as *Eupatorium ageratoides* L. f. (1781) and later as *E. urticaefolium* Reichard (1780). The plant is of economic importance as the cause of the often fatal disease of cattle known as "trembles." The poisonous properties transmitted in milk cause the disease known as "milk sickness," which in the early days of settlement of the Middle West sometimes reached epidemic proportions and depopulated whole villages.<sup>2</sup> Several varieties based on varying degrees of pubescence (the typical form being essentially glabrous) and on leaf shape have been distinguished. New combinations for them are published here in order that the names may be available for use.

EUPATORIUM RUGOSUM Houtt. var. **angustatum** (Gray), n. comb.—*E. ageratoides* var. *angustatum* Gray, Syn. Fl. **1**<sup>2</sup>: 101. 1884. *E. angustatum* Greene, Pittonia **4**: 277. 1901. *Kyrstenia angustata* Greene, Leafl. **1**: 8. 1903. *E. urticaefolium* var. *angustatum* Robinson, Proc. Amer. Acad. **51**: 537. 1916.

E. RUGOSUM var. **tomentellum** (Robinson), n. comb.—*E. urticaefolium* var. *tomentellum* Robinson, Proc. Amer. Acad. **47**: 195. 1911.

<sup>1</sup> RHODORA **40**: 293. 1938.

<sup>2</sup> See James F. Couch, The toxic constituent of richweed or white snakeroot (*Eupatorium urticaefolium*), Journ. Agric. Res. **35**: 547–576. 1927, for a review of the history of the disease with references to the important literature.



Originally described from Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan; I collected specimens (no. 11080) so identified by Dr. Robinson on tidal shore of Delaware River at Beverly, Burlington Co., New Jersey, on 9 Oct. 1929.

*E. RUGOSUM* var. **villicaule** (Fernald), n. comb.—*E. urticaefolium* var. *villicaule* Fernald, RHODORA 10: 87. 1908.

Besides these variants, which show differences that appear to be of some real significance, a form with leaves in threes instead of in pairs has been described from Michigan as *E. urticaefolium* var. *trifolium* Farwell (Rep. Mich. Acad. Sci. 17: 170. 1916), and independently from Quebec as *E. urticaefolium* f. *verticillatum* Marie-Victorin (Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada III. 20 (Sect. 5): 471. 1926). It does not seem that any useful purpose is served by assigning botanical names to the frequent specimens of normally opposite-leaved Compositae that are found with ternate leaves.

The varietal and formal names that have been published under *E. urticifolium* (*sic*) for Paraguayan members of the genus relate not to the North American *E. urticaefolium* Reichard (1780) (= *E. rugosum* Houtt.) but to *E. urticaefolium* L. f. (1781), a South American species. According to Robinson, the name *Eupatorium urticaefolium* L. f. itself, as to type, is to be referred<sup>1</sup> to the synonymy of *E. ballotae-folium* H. B. K., while the species called *E. urticaefolium* L. f. (or *E. urticifolium*) by Baker and other writers on South American botany is properly known<sup>2</sup> as *E. pauciflorum* H. B. K.

As Dr. Merrill has pointed out, the adoption of the name *Eupatorium rugosum* Houtt. for the plant of eastern North America leaves the Ecuadorian *E. rugosum* H. B. K. (Nov. Gen. & Sp. 4: 114. 1820) without a tenable name. It may be renamed *EUPATORIUM bulliferum*. According to Robinson's revision of the *Eupatoriums* of Ecuador, it is still known only from the original collection made by Humboldt and Bonpland.

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. Amer. Acad. 54: 321. 1918.

<sup>2</sup> Proc. Amer. Acad. 42: 46. 1906 and 54: 319. 1918.



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