

TYPIFICATION OF *VERNONIA TENUIFOLIA* SMALL AND *V. JAMESII* TORREY & GRAY (COMPOSITAE)

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ABSTRACT

Jones, in a study of the fasciculate group of *Vernonia*, designated the single collection C. Wright 242 as the lectotype for both *V. jamesii* Torrey & Gray and *V. tenuifolia* Small. *Vernonia jamesii* Torrey & Gray is based on the type of *V. altissima* Nutt. β *marginata* Torrey and as such is typified by the specimen, Dr. E. P. James "On the Arkansa?," [sic] cited by Torrey. Although Small cited no specimens in his description of *V. tenuifolia* in 1898, he did annotate the collection Wright 242 (NY), which can serve as the lectotype for that name.

In 1827 John Torrey prepared an account of the botanical specimens collected by Dr. E. P. James during the 1820 expedition to the Rocky Mountains commanded by Major Stephen H. Long. Among the taxa described as new by Torrey was *Vernonia altissima* β *marginata*. Torrey questioningly placed this variety under *V. altissima*, a plant that he admittedly had not seen. Rafinesque (1832) raised Torrey's variety to specific rank as *V. marginata* (Torrey) Raf., and referred back to Torrey's original description. Later, Torrey and Gray (1841), without mentioning *V. marginata* (Torrey) Raf., proposed the name *V. jamesii* Torrey & Gray. In so doing they placed Torrey's *V. altissima* β *marginata* in synonymy and also gave unmistakable reference to the same collection, "On the Arkansas? Dr. James!," on which Torrey's β *marginata* was based.

Since *Vernonia marginata* (Torrey) Raf. (1832) and *V. jamesii* Torrey & Gray (1841) are based on the same type specimen the later name, *V. jamesii* Torrey & Gray, is superfluous.

In 1898 Small named a new species of *Vernonia*, *V. tenuifolia*, from western Texas, but did not cite specimens or designate a type. Gleason (1922) recognized Small's *V. tenuifolia*, but again did not designate a type; he merely stated "Type locality: Texas. Distribution: Texas." Shinnars (1950) also failed to typify *V. tenuifolia* when he reduced it to a variety of *V. marginata*.

Jones (1972; Jones & Faust 1978) placed *Vernonia altissima* var. *marginata* Torrey, *V. jamesii* Torrey & Gray, and *V. tenuifolia* Small in synonymy under *V. marginata* (Torrey) Raf. In his 1972 paper on fasciculate vernonias Jones

also designated lectotypes for all three names. He correctly designated the James collection from the Long Expedition as the lectotype for *V. altissima* var. *marginata*, but incorrectly designated the C. Wright 242 specimen as the lectotype for both *V. jamesii* and *V. tenuifolia*.

Since Torrey and Gray based their *Vernonia jamesii* on *V. altissima* β *marginata* Torrey, the James collection, the only specimen cited in their description, must also serve as the type for *V. jamesii*. According to Jones (1972), however, Torrey later annotated another specimen, Wright 242, as *V. jamesii*. This same sheet was later annotated by Small (Jones 1972), as *V. tenuifolia*. Jones (1972) reasoned that since Small had annotated Wright 242 as *V. tenuifolia* Small over Torrey's annotation of the collection as *V. jamesii* Torrey & Gray that he (Small) was providing another name for *V. jamesii*. This is, however, not the case since the situation is one of taxonomy and not of nomenclature. As long as Small did not annotate the James collection, the type of *V. altissima* β *marginata* Torrey, as *V. tenuifolia* then it cannot be assumed that he was including it in *V. tenuifolia*. Also, Wright 242 was collected in 1849, 22 years after Torrey named *V. altissima* β *marginata* and 17 years after Torrey and Gray's *V. jamesii* was published, and Wright's collection could not have been among the material on which those names were based. Furthermore, because Small did not annotate the James collection as *Vernonia tenuifolia*, that name cannot, as Jones concluded (1972), be considered superfluous.

The typification for *Vernonia altissima* Nutt. β *marginata* Torrey, *V. marginata* (Torrey) Raf., *V. jamesii* Torrey & Gray, and *V. tenuifolia* Small, should be as follows:

***Vernonia altissima* Nutt. β *marginata* Torrey**, Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New York 2:210. 1827. — TYPE: the specimen collected on Long's First Expedition, "Dr. James, On the Arkansa" (NY).

***Vernonia marginata* (Torrey) Raf.**, Atlantic J. 1:146. 1832. — Based on *Vernonia altissima* Nutt. β *marginata* Torrey.

***Vernonia jamesii* Torrey & Gray**, Fl. N. Amer. 2:58. 1841, nom. superfl. et illeg. — Based on the same type as *Vernonia altissima* Nutt. β *marginata* Torrey.

***Vernonia tenuifolia* Small**, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club 25:145. 1898. No specimens cited, typified by C. Wright 242, the specimen at NY bearing the annotation *V. tenuifolia* in Small's handwriting. — (LECTOTYPE (as designated by Jones 1972): NY; possible ISOLECTOTYPES: GH, 3 sheets.)

***Vernonia marginata* (Torrey) Raf. var. *tenuifolia* (Small) Shinn.** — Based on *Vernonia tenuifolia* Small.

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COX, P.A. AND S.A. BANACK (eds.). 1991. **Islands, plants, and Polynesians. An introduction to Polynesian Ethnobotany.** Dioscorides Press, 9999 S.W. Wilshire, Portland, Oregon. Hardbound. \$34.95 plus \$3.75 shipping. 228 pp.

This interesting book is the Proceedings of a Symposium Sponsored by the Institute of Polynesian Studies, Brigham Young University-Hawaii Campus Laie, Hawaii. Ethnobotany is the study of the use of plants by indigenous peoples and in the case of this book the Polynesians. Quoting from chapter 1, by R. Raymond Fosberg, "Polynesia includes the islands scattered over a vast triangular area in the Pacific with Hawaii, Easter Island, and New Zealand as its apices, and with a scattering of outlying islands westward into Melanesia and Micronesia. All the islands are tropical or subtropical except New Zealand and its outlying islands and groups, which are temperate or even cold." The book has ten chapters and includes an index to scientific names and an index to Polynesian words.



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