A New Combination in *Peltostigma* (Rutaceae)

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ABSTRACT. *Peltostigma parviflorum* Q. Jiménez & Gereau is reduced to synonymy under *P. guatemalense* (Standley & Steyermark) Gereau, comb. nov., based on *Galipea guatemalensis* Standley & Steyermark.

*Peltostigma* Walpers (Rutaceae: Rutoideae) belongs to subtribe Choisyinae of the tribe Zanthoxyleae, while *Galipea* Aublet (Rutaceae: Rutoideae) belongs to subtribe Cuspariinae of the tribe Cusparieae. The two subtribes may be contrasted as follows (Engler, 1931):

Choisyinae: flowers actinomorphic; corolla poly- petalous; stamens all antheriferous; seeds with endosperm.

Cuspariinae: flowers usually zygomorphic; corolla usually gamopetalous; some stamens often reduced to staminodes; seeds with little or no endosperm.

*Peltostigma parviflorum* Q. Jiménez & Gereau is the only species of the genus with unifoliolate leaves and small flowers (petals 8.2-10.1 mm long) (Jiménez & Gereau, 1991); its congeners (*P. pleleoides* (Hooker) Walpers and *P. eximium* C. V. Morton) possess 3–5-foliolate leaves and large flowers (petals 15–25 mm long) (Morton, 1933; Standley & Steyermark, 1946). *Galipea guatemalensis* Standley & Steyermark was named from a fruiting specimen lacking the floral characters necessary for correct generic (or even subtribal) placement in the Rutaceae. Examination of its holotype has shown that *G. guatemalensis*, an earlier name, is the same species as *P. parviflorum*, necessitating the following new combination.


Jiménez & Gereau (1991) discussed geographical trends in the morphology of *Peltostigma guatemalense* (as *P. parviflorum*) in terms of a “northern race” consisting of the collections from Guanacaste and Puntarenas, Costa Rica, and a “southern race” comprising the type and four collections from Antioquia, Colombia. The “races” may be contrasted as follows: “Northern race”: petioles 0.2–2.1 cm long, not extremely variable, the longest in a given specimen exceeding the shortest by 0.5–1.5 cm; leaflet blade 3.2–16.0 x 1.2–7.3 cm, the apex obtuse or obtusely acuminate, the base acute to rounded; petals 8.2–9.3 x 8.0–8.5 mm. “Southern race”: petioles 0.3–5.6 cm long, extremely variable, the longest in a given specimen exceeding the shortest by 2.0–4.5 cm; leaflet blade 4.2–20.6 x 2.2–10.2 cm, the apex acutely acuminate, the base usually attenuate; petals 9.8–10.1 x 8.5–9.7 mm.

The type of *Galipea guatemalensis* has larger leaflets (to 19.5 x 8.7 cm) and longer petioles (to 2.6 cm) than is characteristic for the “northern race,” but is otherwise more similar in foliar characters to the northern than to the southern populations. A previously unreported collection of this species from Peru has foliar characters entirely within the parameters of the “northern race,” but insufficiently mature flowers to assess the correlation between geography, floral measurements, and foliar characters. With few collections and little available data on flower size, it is preferable to continue to consider *Peltostigma guatemalense* a single species with some observable correlation between geography and morphological characters. Further investigations based on more ample collections could reveal the desirability of recognizing the two informal “races” as subspecies.


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Literature Cited


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