

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE). I

A NEW GENUS, URBANANTHUS

R. M. King and H. Robinson
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20506.

In 1900 Urban described Eupatorium critoniforme, a new species from the island of Jamaica having the habit of Critonia dalea but lacking the pellucid spots in the leaves. In the original description of the plant were such comments as "achaeniis . . . glabris.", "stamina tubo supra basin affixa . . ." and "Stylus . . . apice manifeste clavatis". Further characters of significance not mentioned by Urban are the lack of dilation on the tips of the pappus setae, the short anther appendages and the very slender corolla cells with very sinuous walls. It is of particular importance that all of these characters are repeated again in a second very distinct species from Cuba, Eupatorium pluriseriatum B.L.Robinson. The two species are the basis for the genus Urbananthus described here.

Of the various characters that distinguish Urbananthus from Critonia, the insertion of the stamens is the most important. The placement of the insertion low on the corolla tube is a striking departure from the situation in Critonia and all other close relatives. Perhaps the most useful character for identification of the genus is the complete lack of pubescence on both the corollas and achenes. The characters most indicative of relationship are the presence of only small lactifers beside the leaf veins, a condition found in some Critonias and in Critoniadelphus, and the clavate tips of the style branches which are different in exact form from those of Critoniadelphus but which indicate that Urbananthus is closely related to the latter genus and similarly intermediate between Critonia and Koanophyllon.

Our knowledge of interrelationships among the Critonioid genera is still very incomplete, but the following seems clear. Critonia and Koanophyllon represent two large and diverse complexes that originated on the mainland and which have numerous derived forms in the West Indies. The derived forms of Critonia are represented by C. dalea and its relatives having large lactifers in the leaves and having slender based achenes. Again, on the mainland in Central America is the genus, Critoniadelphus, which has the habit of Critonia and many characters of Koanophyllon. Related to Critoniadelphus but differing in derived features such as the glabrous corollas and achenes and the lower insertion of the anthers, is the West Indian genus,

Urbananthus. It is clear that the Jamaican species Urbananthus critoniforme is really very remote in relationship from the Jamaican Critonia dalea which it superficially resembles.

Urbananthus R.M.King & H.Robinson, genus novum Asteracearum (Eupatorieae). Plantae frutescentes laxae ramosae. Folia opposita petiolata glabra, laminis ellipticis breviter vel longe acuminatis basi cuneatis, cellulis lactiferis obscuris. Inflorescentiae laxae paniculatae. Involucri squamae 20-30 inaequilongae 5-6-seriatae orbiculares vel oblongae stramineae glabrae 2-3-striatae, squamae interiores caducae; receptacula aliquantum convexa. Flores 4-10 in capitulo; corollae tubulares laeves glabrae, cellulis angustis, parietibus valde sinuosis, lobis 5 oblongo-triangularibus; filamenta antherarum fere ad bases corollarum inserta; filamenta in parte superiore angusta, cellulis plerumque quadratis vel brevioribus, parietibus inornatis; appendicibus antherarum subquadratis vel brevioribus; styli inferne non-nodulosi glabri, appendicibus spathulatus sublaevibus; achaenia prismatica 5-costata glabra; carpopodia distincta symmetrica breviter obturaculiformia, cellulis inferne minute quadratis superne longioribus, parietibus incrassatis; pappus setiformi uniseriatus, setis ca. 30 contiguis scabris persistentibus superne non dilatatis, cellulis apicalibus acutis.

Species typica: Eupatorium critoniforme Urban

Our studies indicate that the genus contains the following two species.

Urbananthus critoniformis (Urban) R.M.King & H.Robinson, comb. nov. Eupatorium critoniforme Urban, Symb. Antill. 1: 458. 1900. Jamaica.

Urbananthus pluriseriatus (B.L.Robinson) R.M.King & H.Robinson, comb. nov. Eupatorium pluriseriatum B.L.Robinson, Proc. Amer. Acad. 47: 195. 1911. Cuba.

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Reference

Urban, I. 1900. Species novae, praesertim portoricenses. Symb. Antill. 1: 291-481.



King, Robert Merrill and Robinson, Harold E . 1971. "Studies in the Eupatoricae (Asteraceae). L. A new genus, Urbananthus." *Phytologia* 22(1), 54-55.

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