The tribe Eupatorieae is richly represented in eastern Brazil in and around the state of Bahia, and many endemic genera and species occur in the area. The inadequate plant collecting in the past had left many taxa still to be discovered and had hindered the recognition of proper concepts for taxa that were known. Continuing accumulation of material has brought a group of three species to our attention that have defective pappus and which would have fallen within the classical concept of Ageratum. Because the three species were from Bahia, because they all had paleae, and because all lacked the conical receptacle of Ageratum there was some inclination to relate them in an alternative genus concept. More detailed analysis shows that there are two comparatively unrelated elements involved, one related to Ageratum and the other to Acritopappus. The new specimens and the resulting new data allow a correction of previous concepts of Acritopappus and confirm the more isolated phyletic position of the latter.

The original description of Acritopappus (King & Robinson, 1972) emphasized among the various characters the glabrous leaves. This character now proves to be erroneous. Not only do the additions to the genus have glands or even hairs on the leaves but the original species also are glanduliferous. The glands in the latter species seem ephemeral and the only obvious trace in mature leaves is the released viscous substance on the surface.

The present concept of Acritopappus is broadened, but additional differences can now be cited which indicate that Ageratum is not a close relative. Initially it should be asserted that the glands of the leaves of Acritopappus are raised from the surface and are not the sunken type characteristic of Ageratum. Plants of Acritopappus are decidedly shrubby while Ageratum contains mostly herbs and subshrubs. The leaves are pinnately veined and prominulous to prominent in a fine reticulum on at least the lower surface. The leaves of Ageratum are trinervate. Acritopappus has a broadly corymbose or subcymose inflorescence while Ageratum is strongly cymose. Involucral bracts of
Acritopappus are blunt with well-developed scarious margins while bracts in Ageratum are strongly pointed and narrowly if at all scarious. The receptacles in Acritopappus are flat but those of Ageratum conical. A final difference seems to be in chromosome number. Acritopappus has been counted three times (all by Coleman) twice in the type species A. longifolius, and once in the distinctive A. micropappus (reported as Ageratum in King et al., 1976). All these counts show n = 9. Ageratum has counts of n = 10, 15 and 20. The reduced number in Acritopappus is apparently fixed in the group and is of interest as a separate independent reduction paralleling the n = 9 found in many Brickellia relatives.

Acritopappus shows consistency in a few other characters such as the paleaceous receptacles, the glabrous achenes, and the contorted carpopodia with a sinuous trace. The pappus is absent or consists only of a few short points or setae.

The other undescribed element from Bahia is named here as the genus Scherya. The specimen was encountered among undetermined Galea specimens in a survey of Brazilian members of that genus. The Ageratum relationship seems to be fixed by the herbaceous habit and the strongly cymose inflorescence. The lack of a conical receptacle alone provides distinction from Ageratum, but a number of other characters are also available. The strap-shaped leaves of Scherya with subparallel non prominulous venation are apparently unique in the tribe. The glands are not sunken into the surface. The involucral bracts are terminated by an expanded subglabrous appendage and there is a dense cluster of glands externally at the base of the appendage. The pappus is unusual in the degree of fusion at the base, being essentially tubular with five laciniate lobes of irregular lengths.

As a result of the study, the following new combination and new species of Acritopappus and the following new genus Scherya are necessary.


**Acritopappus harleyi** R.M. King & H. Robinson, sp. nov. Plantae frutescentes usque ad 4 m altae. Caules hexagonales vel subteretes glabri, internodis 1.5-6.0 cm longis. Folia opposita sessilia oblongo-ovata coriacea 5.5-8.5 cm longa et 2.8-4.0 cm lata base rotundatae margine multo serrulatae apice vix vel breviter acuminatae supra subglabrae subtus glanduliferae,
nervis dense pinnatis, nervis secundariis et nervulis utrinque prominulis. Inflorescentiae terminales sub-
scap sae late corymbosae vel subcymosae, ramis primariis oppositis base patentibus, ramis ultimis 0-3 mm longis
dense puberulis. Capitula anguste campanulata ca. 6 mm
alta et 2 mm lata in glomerulis latioribus dense con-
gesta; squamae involucri ca. 10 subequales oblongae ca.
4 mm longae et 1 mm latae margine scariosae apice trunc-
catae vel retusae minute denticulatae extus sparse pub-
erulae vel glabre; receptacula pauce paleacea, paleis
bracteiformibus. Flores ca. 6 in capitulo; corollae
sordide roseae ca. 3.5 mm longae tubulares superne vix
latiores extus sparse glanduliferae, lobis triangularibus ca.
0.6 mm longis et 0.5 mm latis extus et intus
sublaevibus; filamenta in parte superiore ca. 0.25 mm
longa, cellulis dense annulate ornatis; thecae ca. 1.4
mm longae; appendices antherarum subquadrateae ca. 0.2
mm longae et latae; appendices stylorum dense papillo-
sae; achaenia 2.5-3.0 mm longa prismatica glabra;
carpopodia brevia distincte contorta; pappus nullus.
Grana pollinis ca. 20µ in diametro.

Type: BRAZIL: BAHIA: ca. 6 km N of Barra da Estiva
on Ibicoara road. Grassland with low shrubs and
scattered woodland. Alt. ca. 1,100 m Approx. 41° 18'W
13° 35'S. Erect shrub to 4 m with ascending brittle

Scherya bahiensis R.M.King & H.Robinson, gen. et
sp. nov. Plantae herbaceae perennae ca. 0.5 m altae
pauce vel non ramosae. Caules teretes vel subhexagon-
ales dense albo-hirtelli et sessiliter glanduliferi,
internodis ca. 1 cm longis. Folia opposita sessilia
linearia 6.0-7.5 cm longa et 0.6-0.8 cm lata trinervata
margine integra apice obtuse acuta supra et subitus
dense et subtiliter albo-hirtella et sessiliter gland-
ulifera, nervis parallelis vel subparallelis non prom-
inulis. Inflorescentiae terminales subscapose cymosae
vel subcymosae, ramis erectis plerumque alternatis,
ramis ultimis ca. 2-5 mm longis dense hirtellis et
glanduliferis. Capitula 5-6 mm alta et 4-5 mm lata
angustae campanulata; squamae involucrca ca. 20 sub-
sequales plerumque ca. 5 mm longae et 1 mm latae apice
in appendice truncato chartace subglabro expansae
subapicale extus perdense glanduliferae extus inferne
2-4-costatae hirtellae et glanduliferae, receptacula
plana vel leniter convexa paleacea, paleis linearibus
apice in appendice chartaceo glabro expansae. Flores
ca. 25 in capitulo; corollae pallidae tubulosae sensim
superne anguste infundibulares ca. 3 mm longae extus glanduliferae, lobis 5 breviter triangularibus ca. 0.6 mm longis et 0.5 mm latis extus sublaevibus glanduliferis intus dense papillosis; filamenta glabra; filamenta in parte superiore 0.15-0.20 mm longa; cellulis plerumque breviter oblongis vel oblongis; parietibus valde annulatis; thecae ca. 1 mm longae, cellulis endotheialibus subquadratis; appendices antherarum oblongae ca. 0.25 mm longae et 0.22 mm latae subtruncatae; basis stylorum glabris non nodulosi; appendices stylorum filiformes dense papillosae; achaenia prismatica 5-costata ca. 18 mm longa glabra; carpopodia breviter cylindrica in costis achaeniorum procurrentia, cellulis plerumque 30-50μ longis et ca. 20μ latis; pappus in corona laciniata valde 5-dentata connatus usque ad 1-2 mm longis, dentibus in apice anguste acuminatis. Grana pollinis ca. 22μ in diametro.

Species typica: Scherya bahiensis R.M.King & H.Robinson


Something of the habitat is indicated by the innumerable sand grains adherent to the hairs of the plant.

The genus is named after the collector.

Reference


Acknowledgement

This study was supported in part by the National Science Foundation Grant DEB77-13457 to the senior author.
Scherya bahiensis R.M.King & H.Robinson, Holotype, United States National Herbarium.

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