

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE). CLXXI.

A NEW GENUS, CORETHAMNIUM.

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Generic revisions of the tribe Eupatorieae have often been complicated by the discovery of totally undescribed entities that could not be anticipated in the systematic review of known species. Such entities are particularly troublesome if they superficially resemble known species or groups and if they remain unnoticed under erroneous identifications. An example is a species collected many years ago during the Cichona expeditions to the northern Andes. The species bears a superficial resemblance to members of the genus Ageratina subgenus Andinia which are common in the area and it is only an attempt to identify some of the latter species that brought the new genus to light. It is particularly notable that the new genus is not even in the subtribe Oxylobinae which contains Ageratina and it will undoubtedly eventually be found not to have the distinctive chromosome base numbers known for that subtribe.

The new genus is sufficiently specialized to present some problems of placement but the most significant feature seems to be the strongly subimbricate involucre. Essentially smooth corolla lobes and a glabrous unenlarged style base further indicate a Critonioid placement. The only character in conflict would be the distinctly papillose style appendages and that alone would not preclude such a relationship. One feature that precluded relation to the Oxylobinae is the poorly delimited carpopodium with small thick-walled cells.

The genus has two particularly distinctive features in the corolla form and the pubescence of the leaves. The long lobes of the corolla seem to arise directly from the tube and the throat can only be distinguished by observing the insertion of the filaments. The tube is also remarkably thick and firm. The hairs of the vegetative parts of the plant are unique in their vermiform nature with various parts 1-3-seriatae. While other hairs of the Eupatorieae have equally short cells they do not have such thick walls. The hairs have thin-walled cells at the base which seems to correlate with the ease of dehiscence. Older leaves become nearly glabrous.

The collection locality in the Choco of Colombia is at higher elevations adjacent to the Dept. of Antioquia and seems likely to contain many distinctive

species and genera of plants.

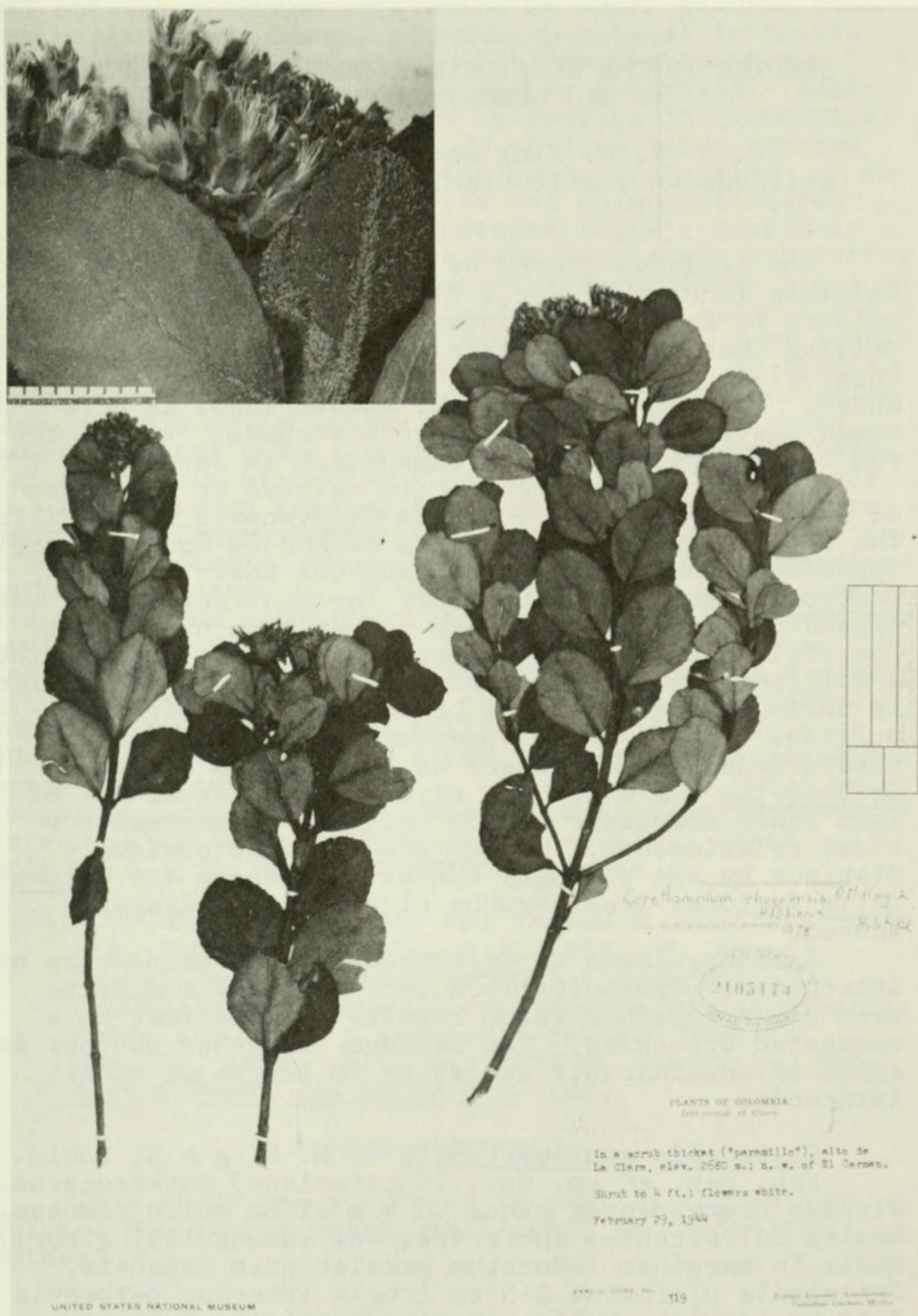
Corethamnium chocoensis R. M. King & H. Robinson, gen. et sp. nov. (Eupatorieae) Asteracearum. Plantae frutescentes usque ad 1.5 m altae erectae multo ramosae. Caules atrofuscescentes teretes dense pilosi, pilis brevibus crassis; internodiis plerumque 1.5-2.5 cm longis. Folia opposita, petiolis 3-5 mm longis dense pilosa; laminae coriaceae suborbiculares plerumque 1.5-3.5 cm longae et 1.0-2.8 cm latae penninervatae base late acutae margine crenato-serrulatae apice breviter obtuse vel rotundatae subtus pallidiores juventute dense pilosae, pilis facile deciduis in nervis subsistentibus brevibus crassis irregulariter 2-3-seriatis, parietibus plerumque incrassatis in cellulis basilariibus tenuioribus. Inflorescentiae parvae corymbosae terminales in ramis foliatis, pedicellis 1-3 mm longis dense pilosis. Capitula ca. 8 mm longa et 3 mm lata breviter cylindrica. Squamae involucri 16-18 subimbricate valde inaequales 1.5-6.0 mm longae et 1.5-2.0 mm latae late ovatae vel oblongae margine anguste scariosa minute fimbriatae apice rotundatae extus glabrae vel glabrescentes; receptacula glabra. Flores ca. 6 in capitulo; corollae albae ca. 5 mm longae infundibulares, tubis ca. 2 mm longis valde induratis, faucis 1.0-1.3 mm longis base indistinctis, tubis et faucis in tubis angustis combinatis extus persparse glanduliferis, lobis anguste oblongis 1.5-1.8 mm longis et ca. 0.6 mm latis margine incrassatis utrinque laevibus extus superne dense glanduliferis, cellulis breviter oblongis, parietibus non sinuosis; filamenta in parte inferiore ca. 1.5 mm longa laevia; filamenta in parte superiore 0.30-0.35 mm longa, cellulis plerumque quadratis, parietibus vix ornatis; thecae ca. 1.2 mm longae; appendices antherarum ovatae ca. 0.35 mm longae et 0.2 mm latae; scapi stylorum aliquantum incrassati glabri; rami stylorum lineares, appendicibus plerumque marginaliter et abaxialiter longe papilloso; achaenia prismatica 5-costata plerumque glabrae apice glandulifera, raro pilifera; carpodia breviter cylindrica superne leniter demarcata, cellulis 3-5-seriatis breviter oblongis 20-25 μ longis et 18-20 μ latis, parietibus incrassatis; setae pappi ca. 45 congestae 1-2-seriatae plerumque 3.0-4.5 mm longae margine dense et irregulariter scabellae sensim superne subintegrae apice subacutae. Grana pollinis ca. 25 μ in diametro argute spinosa.

TYPE: COLOMBIA: Choco: In a scrub thicket ("paramillo") alto de La Clara, elev. 2680 m.; NW of El Carmen. Shrub to 4 ft.; flowers white. February 29, 1944

Earl L. Core 319 (Holotype US).

Acknowledgement

This study was supported in part by the National Science Foundation Grant DEB77-13457 to the senior author.



Corethamnium choocoensis R.M. King & H. Robinson,
 Holotype, United States National Herbarium. Photos by
 Victor E. Krantz, Staff Photographer, National Museum
 of Natural History.



King, Robert Merrill and Robinson, Harold E . 1978. "Studies in the Eupatorieae (Asteraceae). CLXXI. A new genus, *Corethamnium*." *Phytologia* 39(1), 54-57.

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