

NEW NAMES AND COMBINATIONS IN NEW WORLD *WEDELIA*
(ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Evaluation of the characters that supposedly separate the genus *Aspilia* from *Wedelia* are briefly reviewed. It is concluded that *Aspilia* cannot be meaningfully separated from *Wedelia*, consequently the South American species of *Aspilia* are transferred to *Wedelia*, much as current workers have accorded the North American species of *Aspilia*. It is likely that most of the African species described as *Aspilia* also should be treated within *Wedelia*, but transfer of these taxa are left to taxonomists familiar with the African taxa. Altogether, 78 new specific combinations or names have resulted from the transfer of South American *Aspilia* into *Wedelia*.

KEY WORDS: *Aspilia*, *Wedelia*, Asteraceae, Heliantheae

Robinson (1984), working with the South American species of *Wedelia* Jacq. *nom. conserv.* and *Aspilia*, notes that the generic lines between these taxa are difficult to draw. Nevertheless, he retains both, emphasizing the supposedly fertile rays in *Wedelia* and, while emphasizing that the currently drawn lines separating *Wedelia* from *Aspilia* (*Wedelia* having mostly sterile ray florets) are artificial, Robinson contends that *Aspilia* (at least in Brazil) "shows a remarkable tendency to contain all the species in the *Wedelia-Aspilia* complex that have distinct fiber sheaths on the veins of the disk corollas and have black anther appendages ..."

My own studies of the North American elements of the "*Wedelia-Aspilia*" generic complex, as well as those from South America and elsewhere, has convinced me that there is no clear distinction between *Wedelia* and *Aspilia*.

McVaugh (1984) also found it difficult to distinguish between *Wedelia* and *Aspilia* noting that:

The distinction between *Wedelia* and the genus *Aspilia* Thouars is not always a clear one. The latter is said to include 125 species in the tropics of both hemispheres, especially in Africa and in Brazil. Traditionally *Wedelia* has been circumscribed so as to include species with fertile rays, obtusely angled achenes, and cup-shaped awnless or short awned pappus. In *Aspilia* the rays are neuter, or pistillate but sterile. Even in species with normally fertile rays, however, one may find some or many ray-flowers with undeveloped achenes. Another group with many similarities to the *Wedelia*-complex is the genus *Zexmenia* Llave, in which the achenes are often winged, with a neck separating the body from the awns and pappus (the latter as in *Wedelia*).

Strother (1991, p. 8) also implicitly recognized the difficulty in arriving at a satisfactory dividing line between *Wedelia* and *Aspilia* by including all of the hitherto recognized North American species of *Aspilia* into *Wedelia*. He further noted (p. 40) that "some, perhaps all, African species named in *Aspilia* may also belong within my circumscription of *Wedelia*." This in spite of the fact that he separated out of *Wedelia* the long recognized *W. trilobata* (L.) A. Hitch., as the type of his new genus *Complaya* Strother, which he believed to be closer to the genera *Lipochaeta* and *Wallastonia*, which appears to be the case.

Strother (1991) did not comment upon the likelihood that most of the South American species of *Aspilia* are, in fact, wedelias. Most of these that I have examined clearly fall within the descriptive boundaries of *Wedelia* sensu Strother. In short, as with the North American species of *Wedelia*, which may have fertile or sterile ray florets (pistillate or neuter, respectively), distinct or indistinct fiber sheaths in the corolla throats, yellow or purple anther appendages, the South American species, at least some if not many of them, vary in the characters concerned. Continued attempts to distinguish between *Wedelia* and *Aspilia*, as focused upon by Robinson (1984), might ultimately provide new insights into species groups and their relationships within the *Wedelia-Aspilia* complex, but the two taxa are, in my opinion, so inextricably linked that the systematic community would be better served, both phyletically and by nomenclature, in accepting but a single genus, *Wedelia*.

As a result of the information outlined above, I unhesitatingly propose the following name changes for the South American species. I have not attempted to do this for the African species since I do not have sufficient material at my disposal to attempt such an undertaking. This should be left to a worker specializing on that region. As this paper was being readied for publication, Robinson (1992) transferred the type species of *Aspilia* (*A. thouarsii* A. DC., from Africa) thus formalizing submergence of these genera.

Wedelia andersonii* (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *As-

pilia andersonii H. Robins., *Phytologia* 55:415. 1984.

Wedelia angustifolia (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Oyedaea angustifolia* Gardn., *London J. Bot.* 7:293. 1848.

Wedelia apensis (Chod.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia apensis* Chod., *Bull. Herb. Boiss., ser. II*, 3:721. 1903.

Wedelia asperrima (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera asperrima* Gardn., *London J. Bot.* 7:401. 1848.

Wedelia aspilioides (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera aspilioides* Baker, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:228. 1884.

Wedelia attenuata (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera attenuata* Gardn., *London J. Bot.* 7:400. 1848.

Wedelia aurantiaca (Griseb.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia aurantiaca* Griseb., *Goett. Abh.* 19:183. 1874.

Wedelia avilensis (Aristeg. & Steyerl.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia avilensis* Aristeg. & Steyerl., *Fl. Venezuelensis* 10:552. 1964.

Wedelia bakeri B. Turner, *nom. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia gracilis* Baker, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:198. 1884. Non *Wedelia gracilis* Rich., *Pers. Syn. Fl.* 2:490. 1807.

Wedelia bishoplecta (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia bishoplecta* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 56:264. 1984.

Wedelia bonplandiana (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera bonplandiana* Gardn., *London J. Bot.* 7:399. 1848.

Wedelia burchellii (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia burchellii* Baker, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:194. 1884.

Wedelia cachimboensis (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia cachimboensis* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 58:245. 1985.

Wedelia callosa (Chod.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia callosa* Chod., *Bull. Herb. Boiss., ser. II*, 3:720. 1903.

Wedelia camporum (Chod.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia camporum* Chod., *Bull. Herb. Boiss., ser. II*, 3:720. 1903.

Wedelia cardenasii (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia cardenasii* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 56:265. 1984.

- Wedelia cuyabensis** (Malme) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia cuyabensis* Malme, Ark. Bot. 24:44. 1932.
- Wedelia cylindrocephala** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia cylindrocephala* H. Robins., Phytologia 56:266. 1984.
- Wedelia diffusiflora** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia diffusiflora* H. Robins., Phytologia 56:416. 1984.
- Wedelia ecliptaefolia** (DC.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Leighia ecliptaefolia* DC., Prodr. 5:583. 1836.
- Wedelia elata** (Pilger) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia elata* Pilger, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 30:203. 1901.
- Wedelia elliptica** (DC.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Anomostephium ellipticum* DC., Prodr. 5:560. 1836.
- Wedelia episcopalis** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia episcopalis* H. Robins., Phytologia 54:55. 1983.
- Wedelia floribunda** (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera floribunda* Gardn., London J. Bot. 7:401. 1848.
- Wedelia foliacea** (Spreng.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera foliacea* Spreng., Syst. 3:616. 1826.
- Wedelia frioana** B. Turner, *nom. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia reticulata* Baker, Mart. Fl. Bras. 6:202. 1884. Not *Wedelia reticulata* A. DC., Prod. 5:540. 1836.
- Wedelia frustrata** B. Turner, *nom. nov.* BASIONYM: *Gymnopsis fruticosa* Gardn., London J. Bot. 7:391. 1848. Not *Wedelia fruticosa* Jacq. 1760.
- Wedelia gardneri** B. Turner, *nom. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia asperrima* Baker, Mart. Fl. Bras. 6:200. 1884. Not *Wedelia asperrima* Benth., Austral. 3:539. 1867.
- Wedelia glabra** (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera glabra* Gardn., London J. Bot. 7:398. 1848.
- Wedelia hassleriana** (Chod.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia hassleriana* Chod., Bull. Herb. Boiss., ser. II, 2:391. 1902.
- Wedelia heringeriana** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia heringeriana* H. Robins., Phytologia 56:267. 1984.

- Wedelia hirsuta** (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera hirsuta* Gardn., *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:397. 1884.
- Wedelia hispidantha** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia hispidantha* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 56:268. 1984.
- Wedelia hispidula** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia hispidula* Baker, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:201. 1884.
- Wedelia induta** (Chod.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia induta* Chod., *Bull. Herb. Boiss.*, ser. II, 3:720. 1903.
- Wedelia jugata** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia jugata* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 55:417. 1984.
- Wedelia laevisissima** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia laevisissima* Baker, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:202. 1884.
- Wedelia lehmannii** (Hieron.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia lehmannii* Hieron., *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* 28:605. 1901.
- Wedelia leucanthema** (Chod.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia leucanthema* Chod., *Bull. Herb. Boiss.*, ser. II, 2:391. 1902.
- Wedelia leucoglossa** (Malme) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia leucoglossa* Malme, *Kongl. Svenska Vet. Akad. Handl.* 32:63. 1899.
- Wedelia martii** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia martii* Baker, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:195. 1884.
- Wedelia montevidensis** (Spreng.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Verbesina montevidensis* Spreng., *Syst.* 3:578. 1826.
- Wedelia oblonga** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia oblonga* Baker, *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:198. 1884.
- Wedelia ovalifolia** (A. DC.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Anomostephium ovalifolium* A. DC., *Prod.* 5:560. 1836.
- Wedelia paranensis** (Malme) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia paranensis* Malme, *Kongl. Svenska Vet. Akad. Handl. Ser. III*, 12:88. 1933.
- Wedelia pascalioides** (Griseb.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia pascalioides* Griseb., in *Goett. Abh.* 24:191. 1879.
- Wedelia patentipilis** (S.F. Blake) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia patentipilis* S.F. Blake, *Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb.* 22:617. 1924.

- Wedelia phyllostachya** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia phyllostachya* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:201. 1884.
- Wedelia podophylla** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia podophylla* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:200. 1884.
- Wedelia procumbens** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia procumbens* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:194. 1884.
- Wedelia pseudoyedaea** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia pseudoyedaea* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 56:270. 1984.
- Wedelia pseudoviguiera** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia pseudoviguiera* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 56:269. 1984.
- Wedelia pusilla** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia pusilla* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:193. 1884.
- Wedelia ramosissima** (Gardn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Viguiera ramosissima* Gardn., *London J. Bot.* 7:402. 1848.
- Wedelia reflexa** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia reflexa* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:196. 1884.
- Wedelia reticulata** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia reticulata* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:202. 1884.
- Wedelia retroflexa** (S.F. Blake) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia retroflexa* S.F. Blake, *Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb.* 22:617. 1924.
- Wedelia riedellii** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia riedellii* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:196. 1884.
- Wedelia rubra** (Aristiguieta) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia rubra* Aristeguieta, *Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard.* 9:369. 1957.
- Wedelia serrulata** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia serrulata* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:204. 1884.
- Wedelia silphioides** (Hook & Arn.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Leighia silphioides* Hook. & Arn., in *Hook. J. Bot.* 3:314. 1841.
- Wedelia simpsonae** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia simpsonae* (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *Phytologia* 56:271. 1984.
- Wedelia squarrosa** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia squarrosa* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:203. 1884.

- Wedelia subalpestris** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia subalpestris* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:202. 1884.
- Wedelia subpetiolata** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia subpetiolata* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:203. 1884.
- Wedelia tambilloana** B. Turner, *nom. nov.* BASIONYM: *Gymnolomia jelskii* Hieron., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 36:487. 1905. Not *Wedelia jelskii* Hieron., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 36:488. 1905.
- Wedelia tomentosa** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia tomentosa* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:199. 1884.
- Wedelia vieirae** (H. Robins.) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia vieirae* H. Robins., *Phytologia* 56:272. 1984.
- Wedelia warmingii** (Baker) B. Turner, *comb. nov.* BASIONYM: *Aspilia warmingii* Baker, in *Mart. Fl. Bras.* 6:192. 1884.

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