

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE) LXXIX.

A NEW GENUS, ASANTHUS.

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The genus Asanthus described here represents three species of two rather distinctive types. A critical comparison with members of related genera is particularly instructive.

The new genus Asanthus seems closest to Steviopsis but can be distinguished by the sessile leaves, the presence of glands on the outer surface of the corolla lobes, the four or more series of phyllaries, the less distinct anther collars, the lack of glands on the achenes, the very narrow raised ribs on the achenes and the distinct carpopodia of small rather thick-walled cells. The genus also lacks the mottled reddish coloration of the stem that occurs in Steviopsis.

The many series of phyllaries are reminiscent of Dyscritogyne but the latter is distinct in its much shorter corolla lobes and the fusiform 5-ribbed achenes bearing many long-stalked glands.

The genus Asanthus does have a resemblance to the related genus Brickellia, especially comparing A. squamulosus (Gray) R.M.King & H.Robinson to Brickellia spinulosa Gray. In superficial characteristics the last two seem closely related, both having the strobilus-like clusters of reduced leaves in the leaf axils and below the involucres. In reality A. squamulosus is distinct by the lack of the hirsute styilar node, the more reduced carpopodium, the narrower raised costae on the sparsely setiferous achene and the great number (75-100) of much finer less scabrous pappus setae. In all these features except the pappus structure, A. squamulosus is like the other species of Asanthus and different from most Brickellia. The occurrence of the squamous condition in a rather unrelated species of Brickellia lessens the inclination to value the characteristic very highly but A. squamulosus is still very distinctive in the form of its pappus which is distinctly in 2-3 rows, and the species could easily be subgenerically distinct from A. thrysiflora and A. solidaginifolia.

The two species A. thrysiflora and A. solidaginifolia have never been compared previously though

they are obviously related. The former species known from San Luis Potosi seems to differ only by a somewhat longer involucre from the latter species of Chihuahua, Coahuila and Durango.

Asanthus R.M.King & H.Robinson, genus novum
Asteracearum (Eupatorieae). Plantae suffrutescentes
erectae multo ramosae. Folia inferne opposita
sessilia anguste lanceolata vel linearia integra,
utrinque glandulifera, superne opposita vel alterna,
interdum squamuosa, in glomerulis dense imbricata.
Inflorescentiae paniculatae, ramis ad apicem dense
corymbosae. Involucri squamae ca. 20-25 interdum in
foliis squamulosis imbricatis numerosis continuae
imbricatae vel subimbricatae valde inaequilongae, 4-
seriatae vel plus, oblongae; receptacula plana glabra.
Flores 8-14 in capitulo; corollae tubulares vel
anguste infundibulares, lobis distincte longioribus
quam latioribus extus paucis glanduliferis; filamenta
antherarum in parte superiore non incrassata, cellulis
indistinctis, parietibus transverse annulate ornatis;
appendicibus 1 1/8-1 1/2 longioribus quam latioribus;
styli inferne non nodulosi, glabri, appendicibus
longe clavatis laevibus; achaenia longe prismaticae ca.
10-costata, costis angustis parce breviter setiferis;
carpopodia breviter operculiformia, cellulis parvis
subquadratis vel breviter oblongis, parietibus
aliquantum incrassatis; pappus setiformis 1-3-seriatus,
setis 20-100, varie scabris superne non dilatatis,
cellulis apicalibus argute acutis.

Species typica: Brickellia squamuosa A. Gray

Our studies of the genus indicate that it contains the following three species.

Asanthus solidaginifolius (A.Gray) R.M.King & H.Robinson, comb. nov. Brickellia solidaginifolia A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. 22: 306. 1887. Mexico.

Asanthus squamulosus (A.Gray) R.M.King & H.Robinson, comb. nov. Brickellia squamuosa A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. 15: 30. 1880. Mexico, Southwest United States.

Asanthus thrysiflorus (A.Gray) R.M.King & H.Robinson, comb. nov. Brickellia thrysiflora A. Gray, Proc. Amer. Acad. 15: 30. 1880. Mexico.

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