

**NEW COMBINATIONS AND A LECOTYPIFICATION  
IN BRAZILIAN VERNONIEAE (ASTERACEAE)**

**BENOÎT LOEUILLE**

Departamento de Botânica, Instituto de Biociências  
Universidade de São Paulo  
Rua do Matão, 277, Herbário SPF  
São Paulo, SP 05508-090, Brazil  
benoit.loeuille@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

Three new nomenclatural combinations are proposed: *Lepidaploa xiquexiquensis* (D.J.N. Hind) Loeuille, *Lessingianthus pottii* (R. Esteves) Loeuille and *Vernonanthura rubriramea* (Mart. ex DC.) Loeuille & P.N. Soares. Additionally, the name *Vernonia rubriramea* Mart. ex DC. is lectotypified.

The polyphyletic nature of *Vernonia* Schreb. sensu lato is now acknowledged from phylogenetic studies (Keeley et al. 2007; Keeley & Robinson 2009; Loeuille et al. 2015) and the genus is actually restricted to 22 species, mostly from eastern North America; only five species occur in Mexico and two in South America (Keeley & Robinson 2009). However, in the course of floristic works and routine identifications in Brazilian herbaria I came upon with some *Vernonia* species which have not yet been transferred to one of the segregate genera in Vernonieae, even though they do not exhibit any diagnostic feature of *Vernonia* sensu stricto. Publishing these combinations allows inclusion of these species in the List of Species of the Brazilian Flora (2015), where they are presently lacking.

*Vernonia xiquexiquensis* D.J.N. Hind is a perennial herb or subshrub from the sand dunes at margins of the Rio São Francisco near Xique-Xique in Bahia State (Hind 2000). This dune habitat in the semi-arid Caatinga Domain is rich in plant endemism (Rocha et al. 2004). As stated by the author of the taxon, the species displays the following characters typical of *Lepidaploa* (Cass.) Cass.: non-glandular anther appendages, basal style node, and tricolporate, echinolophate pollen grains with poral lacunae prominent (type C) (Robinson 1990; Hind 2000). I propose the following new combination.

**LEPIDAPLOA XIQUEXIQUENSIS** (D.J.N. Hind) Loeuille, **comb. nov.** Basyonym: *Vernonia xiquexiquensis* D.J.N. Hind, Kew Bull. 55: 182. 2000. **TYPE. BRAZIL. BAHIA:** Mun. Xique-Xique, dunas do Rio São Francisco, 548 m alt., 23 Jun 1996, *A.M. Giuliatti et al.* 29280 (holotype: ALCB; isotypes: HUEFS, K).

*Vernonia pottii* R. Esteves is a subshrub endemic from western Brazilian Pantanal, a large wetland plain extending along the western boarder of the Cerrado Domain (Hueck 1972). Several features of this species, such as non-glandular anther appendages, lack of basal style node, and tricolporate, echinolophate pollen grains with irregular areoles and colpi lacking polar lacunae (type B) (Esteves et al. 2005) clearly relate the species to *Lessingianthus* H. Rob. (Robinson 1988; Angulo & Dematteis 2010). I propose the following new combination.

**LESSINGIANTHUS POTTII** (R. Esteves) Loeuille, **comb. nov.** Basyonym: *Vernonia pottii* R. Esteves, Bradea 11: 19. 2005. **TYPE. BRAZIL. MATO GROSSO DO SUL:** Mun. Corumbá, Reserva Acurizal, Serra do Amolar, borda oeste do Pantanal, 17°51'38" S, 57°33'12" W, 200 m alt., 7 May 2003, *A. Pott & V.J. Pott* 11026 (holotype: HMS !; isotypes: HB, HRJ).

Robinson (1999) noted that *Vernonia rubriramea* Mart. ex DC. belongs to *Vernonanthura* H. Rob. but he did not provide a combination in that genus, perhaps suspecting that it would be a

synonym of *Vernonanthura membranacea* (Gardner) H. Rob. (Almeida et al. 2005). Nonetheless, *V. rubriramea* differs from *V. membranacea* by its more congested panicles, capitula with outer phyllaries squarrose, stramineous and obtuse apices (vs. adpressed, rarely slightly squarrose, chestnut to purple and acute apices), and non-glandular cypselae (vs. glandular) (Soares 2012). *Vernonia rubriramea* is a shrub or treelet from Goiás, Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, Tocantins, and São Paulo states (Hattori & Nakajima 2008; Medeiros et al. 2012). Candolle used one of the specimens housed at M to describe the species, as noted in the protologue: “v.s. in h. Acad. reg. Monac.” (Candolle 1836). The fragmentary material at G-DC (barcode G00327449) probably originates from M material but it lacks an original Martius label with locality description; therefore I here designate one of the sheets housed at M as lectotype. The two Martius sheets at M (barcodes M-0029398 and M-0029399) are very similar (quality of specimen, label information) and I chose as lectotype the one (M-0029398) which is labeled as “holotype.” The following new combination is proposed.

**VERNONANTHURA RUBRIRAMEA** (Mart. ex DC.) Loeuille & P.N. Soares, **comb. nov.**  
 Basyonym: *Vernonia rubriramea* Mart. ex DC., Prodr. 5: 38. 1836. **TYPE. BRAZIL.**  
 Habitat in campis prope Gongonhas de Sabará, Provinciae Minas Geraës, *M. von Martius 1158 (271)* (lectotype, here designed: M [scan seen] [barcode no. M-0029398];  
 isolectotypes: G-DC [scan seen] [barcode no. G00327449] [fragments], M [scan seen]  
 [barcode no. M-0029399], P [scan seen] [barcode no. P00682921] [fragments]).

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