
Compositae of the Guayana Highland—X. Reduction of *Pollalesta* to *Piptocoma* (Vernonieae: Piptocarphinae) and Consequent Nomenclatural Adjustments

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ABSTRACT. Central and South American *Pollalesta* is reduced to synonymy of West Indian *Piptocoma*. Fourteen new species combinations and three new sectional combinations are made, and *Piptocoma acevedoi* from Puerto Rico is described as new, raising the number of species in *Piptocoma* from 3 to 18. A key to the four sections of *Piptocoma* is also provided.

While preparing accounts of the Compositae (Asteraceae) for the Guayana Highland in northeastern South America and for the *Flora of St. John, U.S.V.I.*, I came to the conclusion that West Indian *Piptocoma* Cassini and Central and northern South American *Pollalesta* HBK (Vernonieae subtribe Piptocarphinae, sensu Robinson et al., 1980, and Pruski, 1992) are congeneric. Schultz-Bipontinus (1863) also treated neotropical *Piptocoma* and *Pollalesta* as congeneric more than a century ago, but treated them as synonyms of paleotropical *Oliganthes*. *Piptocoma* tends to have smaller leaves and larger heads than those of *Pollalesta*, but the differences are not generically useful. *Piptocoma* was treated as distinct from *Oliganthes* (then including *Pollalesta*) by Bentham (1873) and from *Pollalesta* by Stutts and Muir (1981) because of striate (not 10-costate) cypselas (achenes); however, I cannot discern a difference and do not accept recognition of two neotropical genera. The purposes of this paper are to reduce *Pollalesta* to the synonymy of *Piptocoma*, to describe a new species from Puerto Rico, and to provide the necessary transfers from *Pollalesta* to *Piptocoma*.

Pollalesta was considered by Bentham (1873) to be a synonym of *Oliganthes* Cassini, which is typified by material from Madagascar and now contains nine species, all endemic to that island. However, the neotropical species of *Oliganthes* sensu Bentham were noted by Aristeguieta (1963) to have a double pappus (vs. a uniseriate pappus in *Oliganthes* s. str.) and were treated by him in the newly resurrected *Pollalesta*, in which 24 species were recognized. In a more recent treatment of *Pollales-*

ta, Stutts (1981) recognized only 16 species. In my treatment of the four species of the group from Guayana (all endemic) for the *Compositae of the Guayana Highland* and *Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana*, I follow the species circumscriptions of Stutts (1981), except that I place *P. faustiana* into the synonymy of *P. schomburgkii* and *P. rarissima* into the synonymy of *P. niceforoi*.

Oliganthes has a uniseriate pappus as reported by Aristeguieta (1963), or when double has a rigid and persistent outer or shorter pappus that is formed from a cartilaginous annulus on the apex of the cypselas. The annulus is thick and is often of nearly the same color as the cypselas. Moreover, *Oliganthes* has a corolla throat that is about as long as the lobes, anthers partly included within the throat, and short-triangular anther appendages. In contrast, the pappus of the New World taxa (*Piptocoma* and *Pollalesta*) is generally deciduous and consistently white to cream-colored, it and the cypselas thus strongly discolored. Additionally, the species from the Neotropics have a very short corolla throat that is much shorter than the lobes, anthers mostly exerted from the throat, and long-triangular anther appendages.

The Old and New World genera can thus be readily distinguished, but the two neotropical genera cannot. The general aspect, gross morphology, and floral microcharacters (the type A pollen, anthers with similar long-triangular apical appendages and spurred bases, styles with a glabrous, non-enlarged base, and a generally biseriate pappus with an inner series of spiral scales) of the neotropical species show continuous variation, making impossible the distinction of two neotropical genera. Therefore, *Pollalesta* is merged with the earlier *Piptocoma*.

Piptocoma Cassini, Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris 1817: 10. 1817. TYPE: *Piptocoma rufescens* Cassini.

Odontoloma HBK, Nov. Gen. Sp. (folio ed.) 4: 34. 1818. Syn. nov. TYPE: *Odontoloma acuminatum* HBK, "acuminata." [= *Piptocoma acuminata* (HBK) Pruski.]

Dialesta HBK, Nov. Gen. Sp. (folio ed.) 4: 35. 1818. Syn. nov. TYPE: *Dialesta discolor* HBK [= *Piptocoma discolor* (HBK) Pruski].

Pollalesta HBK, Nov. Gen. Sp. (folio ed.) 4: 36. 1818. Syn. nov. TYPE: *Pollalesta vernonioides* HBK [= *Piptocoma vernonioides* (HBK) Pruski].

Adenocyclus Lessing, Linnaea 4: 337. 1829. Syn. nov. TYPE: *Adenocyclus condensatus* Lessing [= *Piptocoma acuminata* (HBK) Pruski].

Erect subshrubs, scandent to vining shrubs, or trees; stems tomentose when young, irregularly angled. *Leaves* simple, alternate, petiolate; *blade* narrowly lanceolate to ovate or cordiform, pinnately veined, the upper surface becoming glabrous, sometimes gland-dotted, the lower surface commonly stellate-tomentose. *Capitulescence* terminal, corymbiform or glomerate, of several to many short-pedunculate capitula. *Capitula* discoid, 1–12-flowered; involucre cylindrical to narrowly campanulate, the phyllaries imbricate, graduated; receptacle weakly convex to flat, naked, plane or ridged, rarely obviously 1- or 2-awned. *Florets* bisexual; *corollas* actinomorphic, funnellform, 5(–6)-lobed, white to purple, the anthers spurred, the style base glabrous, non-enlarged, the style shaft upwardly hispidulous, the style branches ascending, slender, hispidulous, the stigmatic surface continuous. *Cypselas* obconical to less commonly plump and pyriform, often 3–5-angled and ca. 10-ribbed, brown, glabrous, glandular, or puberulent; *pappus* generally biseriate, white to cream-colored, pappus and cypselas strongly discolored, the outer series deciduous as a ring, deciduous individually, or less commonly persistent though fragile, of ca. 10 short squamellae, these free to connate at very base (pseudocoroniform), rarely absent, the inner series deciduous, of 0–14 elongate, spiral scales reaching to about the base of the corolla lobes. *Pollen* type A. Chromosome number unknown.

The following 18 species, including one previously undescribed and 14 newly transferred from *Pollalesta*, are recognized in *Piptocoma*, which as redefined ranges from the West Indies to Central America and northern South America. Among the genera of Vernonieae in the Neotropics, *Piptocoma* is recognized by its woody habit with well-defined internodes, by its commonly stellate-tomentose lower leaf surfaces, by its few-flowered heads, and by its inner pappus of few strap-shaped, flattened, spiral, deciduous scales (not coroniform or of bristles, fimbriae, awns, or setae). The species concepts used here are largely those of Stutts (1981) and Stutts and Muir (1981), where heterotypic synonyms, keys to species, and distributions of the species are given. The infrageneric groups that Aristeguieta (1963) and

Stutts (1981) recognized in *Pollalesta* are maintained, but subgenera are reduced to the sectional level. It is noted that Aristeguieta (1963) and Stutts (1981) used some of the subgenera of *Oliganthes* in Schultz-Bipontinus (1847, 1859–1860, 1863) in their views of *Pollalesta*, but they made no subgeneric combinations in *Pollalesta*.

KEY TO THE SECTIONS OF *PIPTOCOMA*

- 1a. Phyllaries distichous; cypselas plump and pyriform at maturity (Costa Rica south to Peru and Brazil) 1. *P.* sect. *Dialesta*
- 1b. Phyllaries spirally arranged; cypselas obconical.
 - 2a. Outer pappus series persistent though fragile; heads 4–12-flowered (Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) 3. *P.* sect. *Piptocoma*
 - 2b. Outer pappus series eventually deciduous, either individually or as a ring; heads 1–6-flowered.
 - 3a. Heads 1–2(–3)-flowered; involucre narrowly cylindrical; inner pappus of 0–4(–6) scales (South America) 2. *P.* sect. *Odontoloma*
 - 3b. Heads 2–5(–6)-flowered; involucre cylindrical or broadly so; inner pappus of (4–)6–14 scales (South America) 4. *P.* sect. *Pollalesta*

1. *Piptocoma* sect. *Dialesta* (HBK) Pruski, stat. nov. Based on: *Dialesta* HBK, Nov. Gen. Sp. (folio ed.) 4: 35. 1818. TYPE: *Dialesta discolor* HBK [= *Piptocoma discolor* (HBK) Pruski].

Oliganthes subg. *Dialesta* (HBK) Schultz-Bipontinus, Linnaea 20: 502. 1847.

***Piptocoma discolor* (HBK) Pruski, comb. nov.** Basionym: *Dialesta discolor* HBK, Nov. Gen. Sp. (folio ed.) 4: 35, tab. 320. 1818. [*Eupatorium cuspidatum* Willdenow ex Lessing, pro syn., Linnaea 4: 315. 1829.] *Oliganthes discolor* (HBK) Schultz-Bipontinus, Linnaea 20: 502. 1847. *Pollalesta discolor* (HBK) Aristeguieta, Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat. 23: 275. 1963. TYPE: Colombia. Honda, 366 m, July 1801, *Humboldt & Bonpland s.n.* (holotype, P not seen [IDC microfiche 6209. 92.II.3]; isotypes, B-W 15156 not seen [photo, US; IDC microfiche 7440. 1091.I.3], P not seen [photo, US]).

Distribution. Costa Rica south to Peru and Brazil. This is the only species of *Pollalesta* sensu Stutts (1981) not found in Venezuela.

2. *Piptocoma* sect. *Odontoloma* (HBK) Pruski, stat. nov. Based on: *Odontoloma* HBK, Nov. Gen. Sp. (folio ed.) 4: 34. 1818. TYPE: *Odontoloma acuminatum* HBK, “*acuminata*.” [= *Piptocoma acuminata* (HBK) Pruski.]

Oliganthes subg. *Adenocyclus* (Lessing) Schultz-Bipontinus, *Linnaea* 20: 501. 1847.

Oliganthes subg. *Odontoloma* (HBK) Schultz-Bipontinus, *Linnaea* 20: 502. 1847.

Piptocoma acuminata (HBK) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Odontoloma acuminatum* HBK, *Nov. Gen. Sp.* (folio ed.) 4: 34, tab. 319. 1818, "acuminata." [*Eupatorium cornifolium* Willdenow ex Lessing, pro syn., *Linnaea* 4: 337. 1829.] *Oliganthes acuminata* (HBK) Schultz-Bipontinus, *Linnaea* 20: 502. 1847. *Pollalesta acuminata* (HBK) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 282. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Silla de Caracas, 823 m, Jan. 1800, *Humboldt & Bonpland s.n.* (holotype, P not seen [IDC microfiche 6209. 92.II.2]; isotype, B-W 15106 not seen [IDC microfiche 7440. 1087.III.8]).

Distribution. Colombia, Trinidad, and Venezuela.

Piptocoma barinensis (Aristeguieta) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Pollalesta barinensis* Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 282. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Barinas: near Barinas, 500 m, Aug. 1958, *Aristeguieta 3256* (holotype, VEN; isotypes, NY, US).

Distribution. Venezuela.

Piptocoma hypochlora (S. F. Blake) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Oliganthes hypochlora* S. F. Blake, *Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb.* 20: 533. 1924. *Pollalesta hypochlora* (S. F. Blake) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 280. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Carabobo: vicinity of Las Trincheras, near Valencia, 200–400 m, 15 Oct. 1918, *Pittier 8185* (holotype, US).

Distribution. Trinidad and Venezuela.

Piptocoma trujillensis (Aristeguieta) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Pollalesta trujillensis* Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 281. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Trujillo: Loma de Morón, near Valera, 18 Nov. 1922, *Pittier 10732* (holotype, VEN; isotypes, NY, US).

Distribution. Venezuela.

3. *Piptocoma* sect. *Piptocoma*

Piptocoma acevedoi Pruski, sp. nov. TYPE: Puerto Rico. Isabela: Guajataca Forest, along Juan Pérez trail, 100–200 m from trail #4, [ca. 200–250 m], 28 Aug. 1992, *Acevedo-Rdgz. & China 5217* (holotype, US; isotypes, K not seen, NY, SJ not seen, UPR not seen, UPRRP not seen). Figure 1.

Piptocoma samanensi similis et affinis sed foliis laevibus integris magnis, ramulo capitulescentiam subtendenti 6–14 cm longo, involucro cylindrico, necnon capitulo 6–10-floro diversa.

Scandent, scrambling, or vining shrub; stems 3–7 m long, tomentose, subterete below, irregularly angled distally, finely striate, tips arching or drooping. *Leaves* simple, alternate, petiolate; *blade* chartaceous, elliptic to obovate, 2–9.5 × 1–4.3 cm, the base acute to attenuate, the apex acute to obtuse or rounded, the margins entire, venation pinnate, not obviously reticulate, the upper surface dark green, smooth, gland-dotted, thinly puberulent, the lower surface often gray or rust-colored, stellate-tomentose; *petiole* 2–8 mm long. *Capitulescence* glomerate, held well above uppermost leaves on tomentose 1-bracted (otherwise naked) branches 6–14 cm long; individual *glomerules* with 4–9 capitula, to 2 cm broad. *Capitula* discoid, 6–10-flowered, 7–10 mm tall, sessile or less commonly subsessile, glomerule or individual capitula often subtended by herbaceous bracts, bracts narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, to 6.5 mm long, commonly longer than the outermost phyllaries; *involucre* cylindrical or often becoming campanulate in fruit, 5–6.5 × (2–)3–4 mm, 3–4-seriate; *phyllaries* 20–23, imbricate, graduated, outer 1 or 2 herbaceous, pubescent, the outer series deltoid to elliptic, 1.5–2.5 × 0.7–1.2 mm, apically acute to rounded, the inner ones elliptic-lanceolate, 4–5.5 × 1.2–1.5 mm, apically obtuse to rounded, scarious, proximally glabrous, pubescent and gland-dotted toward apex; *receptacle* flat, 0.5–1.5 mm diam., glabrous, naked or less commonly awned (paleate), pitted or with 2 ridges bordering pits to ca. 0.2 mm tall, one or both ridges sometimes elongating into awns 1–4 mm long. *Corollas* actinomorphic, deeply 5(–6)-lobed, (4–)5–6.3 mm long, lavender, funnellform, the limb exerted from involucre, the tube and especially the lobe apex glandular; tube narrow, 2.5–3 mm long; throat broadened, ca. 0.5–0.8 mm; lobes ascending, linear, 2–2.8 mm long; *anthers* exerted from throat, cream-colored, 1.8–2.2 mm long, long-triangular at apex, basally spurred, the filaments very short, ca. 0.8 mm long; *style* to 6.8 mm long, without basal node, hispidulous in upper half, the branches ascending to gently recurved, slender, 1.2–2.3 mm long, the stigmatic surface continuous. *Cypselas* obconical, ca. 10-ribbed, 2.5–4 mm long, light brown, glabrous or sometimes weakly puberulent at top; *pappus* biseriate, cream-colored, outer series of ca. 10, reduced, persistent scales, these free or pseudocoroniform, 0.4–1(–1.4) mm long, inner series of 9–12 elongate, erect, twisting, deciduous scales, ca. 3–4.7 mm long. *Pollen* type A.



Figure 1. *Piptocoma acevedoi* Pruski. —A. Habit. —B. Glomerule. —C. Capitulum. —D. Longitudinal section of capitulum. —E. Phyllaries. —F. Floret with close-ups of outer pappus, inner pappus, and corolla lobe apex. —G. Anthers and styles. —H. Mature cypsela. (Drawn from the holotype, *Acevedo-Rdgz. & Chinaea 5217, US.*)

I am happy to name this species after its discoverer, my friend and colleague Pedro Acevedo-Rodríguez. Pedro is the author of *Los Bejucos de Puerto Rico* (Acevedo-Rodríguez, 1985).

Distribution and ecology. This species is uncommon on limestone or serpentine in moist disturbed or riverine forests in western and northern Puerto Rico. It has been collected from 200 to 545

m elevation and is known to flower from August to January. With the description of this new species, the floras of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola each have two species of *Piptocoma*, one with a glomerate capitulescence and another with a corymbiform capitulescence.

By its persistent outer pappus, *P. acevedoi* belongs to *Piptocoma* sect. *Piptocoma*. Because of its glomerate capitulescence it is most closely related to *P. samanensis* Alain of Hispaniola. The two other species of section *Piptocoma*, *P. rufescens* Cassini from Hispaniola and *P. antillana* Urban from Puerto Rico, have a corymbiform capitulescence and are not as closely related. *Piptocoma acevedoi* differs from *P. samanensis* by entire (vs. aculeate or less commonly denticulate), smooth (vs. rugose) leaves that are often twice as long as those of *P. samanensis*, by glomerules held high above the upper stem leaves on 1-bracted (vs. 1-leaved) branches that are 6–14 (vs. 3–8) cm long, and by cylindrical (vs. broadly cylindrical to turbinate), 6–10 (vs. 8–12)-flowered heads. Moreover, the receptacle in *P. acevedoi* is occasionally awned with elongations to 4 mm long, a “paleate” condition not found in *P. samanensis*, and seen rarely elsewhere in the tribe Vernonieae.

Paratypes. PUERTO RICO. Bosque de Guajataca, Vereda #4, [ca. 200–250 m], 16 Jan. 1992, *Acevedo-Rdgz. et al.* 4784 (F not seen, MO not seen, US); Maricao, Bo. Maricao Afuera, along Maricao River, between 0.5 & 1 km upriver from entrance to fish hatchery, 18°10.191'N, 66°59.163'W, 485–545 m, 10 Jan. 1995, *Acevedo-Rdgz. & Cedeño* 7148 (HAC, UPR not seen, US); Maricao, Bo. Maricao Afuera, Río Maricao margins, on shaded river banks, serpentinitic soil, 18°10'05"N, 66°59'16"W, 470 m, 9 Oct. 1993, *Cedeño* 196 (MARP not seen, US); Maricao, Bo. Maricao Afuera, Río Maricao margins, on shaded river banks, serpentinitic soil, 18°09'43"N, 66°59'15"W, 500 m, 10 Jan. 1995, *Cedeño & Acevedo* 379 (MARP not seen, US).

Piptocoma antillana Urban, *Ark. Bot.* 23A(11): 50. 1931. TYPE: U.S. Virgin Islands. Water Island near St. Thomas, July 1881, *Eggers edit. Toepffer* 475 (holotype, B destroyed; isotype, GH not seen [photo, US]).

Distribution. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Piptocoma rufescens Cassini, *Bull. Soc. Philom.* Paris 1818: 58. 1818. *Oliganthes rufescens* (Cassini) Schultz-Bipontinus, *Jahresber. Pollichia* 20–21: 338. 1863. TYPE: Hispaniola. “Saint-Domingue,” *Desportes s.n.* (holotype, P-JU 8439 not seen [IDC microfiche 6206. 621.II.2]).

Distribution. Hispaniola.

Piptocoma samanensis Alain, *Brittonia* 20: 153. 1968. TYPE: Dominican Republic. Samaná: Península de Samaná, Pan de Azúcar, 5 Aug. 1930, *Ekman* 15847 (holotype, NY; isotype, US).

Distribution. Hispaniola.

4. ***Piptocoma*** sect. ***Pollalesta*** (HBK) Pruski, *stat. nov.* Based on: *Pollalesta* HBK, *Nov. Gen. Sp.* (folio ed.) 4: 36. 1818. TYPE: *Pollalesta vernonioides* HBK [= *Piptocoma vernonioides* (HBK) Pruski].

Oliganthes subg. *Pollalesta* (HBK) Schultz-Bipontinus, *Jahresber. Pollichia* 20–21: 337. 1863.

Piptocoma areolata (Wurdack) Pruski, *comb. nov.* Basionym: *Oliganthes areolata* Wurdack, *Mem. New York Bot. Gard.* 8: 144. 1953. *Pollalesta areolata* (Wurdack) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 270. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Amazonas: Cerro Sipapo (Paraque), along water course, central east drainage, 1800 m, 14 Jan. 1949, *Maguire & Politi* 28366 (holotype, NY; isotype, US).

Distribution. Guayana region of Venezuela.

Piptocoma macrophylla (Schultz-Bipontinus) Pruski, *comb. nov.* Basionym: *Oliganthes macrophylla* Schultz-Bipontinus, *Linnaea* 20: 503. 1847. *Pollalesta macrophylla* (Schultz-Bipontinus) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 266. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Distrito Federal: Galipán, Sep. [no year given], *Moritz* 1358 (holotype, B destroyed [photo, US]).

Distribution. Colombia and Venezuela.

Piptocoma milleri (J. R. Johnston) Pruski, *comb. nov.* Basionym: *Vernonia milleri* J. R. Johnston, *Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts* 40: 698. 1905. *Oliganthes milleri* (J. R. Johnston) Gleason, *Bull. Torrey Bot. Club* 46: 251. 1919. *Pollalesta milleri* (J. R. Johnston) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 268. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Nueva Esparta: Isla de Margarita, El Valle, summit of South hill, 300 m, 31 July 1901, *Miller & Johnston* 254 (holotype, GH not seen; isotypes, NY, US).

Distribution. Trinidad and Venezuela.

Piptocoma neglecta (Stutts) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Pollalesta neglecta* Stutts, *Rhodora* 83: 412. 1981. TYPE: Venezuela. Sucre: Península de Paria, between Cumaná and Carupano, 5 m, 14 Aug. 1966, *Steyermark & Rabe 96443* (holotype, NY; isotype, US).

Distribution. Venezuela.

Piptocoma niceforoi (Cuatrecasas) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Oliganthes niceforoi* Cuatrecasas, *Revista Acad. Colomb. Ci. Exact.* 9: 243. 1954. *Pollalesta niceforoi* (Cuatrecasas) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 267. 1963. TYPE: Colombia. Norte de Santander: Río Zulia, 4 Jan. 1949, *Nicéforo 35* (holotype, F not seen [photo, NY]).

Pollalesta rarissima Stutts, *Rhodora* 83: 412. 1981. Syn. nov. TYPE: Venezuela. Táchira: between La Muleta and Independencia, 1300 m, 15 Feb. 1939, *Alston 7070* (holotype, MO; isotypes, NY, US, VEN).

Distribution. Colombia and Venezuela.

Piptocoma roraimensis (Steyermark) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Oliganthes roraimensis* Steyermark, *Fieldiana, Bot.* 28: 662. 1953. *Pollalesta roraimensis* (Steyermark) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 271. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Bolívar: Mount Roraima, SW-facing quebrada near Rondón Camp, 2040 m, 25 Sep. 1944, *Steyermark 58678* (holotype, F not seen; isotype, NY).

Distribution. Guayana region of Guyana and Venezuela; expected from adjacent Brazil.

Piptocoma schomburgkii (Schultz-Bipontinus) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Oliganthes schomburgkii* Schultz-Bipontinus, *Linnaea* 20: 504. 1847. *Pollalesta schomburgkii* (Schultz-Bipontinus) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 269. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Near Roraima, Nov. 1842, *Rich. Schomburgk 921* [cited in the Schomburgk determination lists (ms. in K, copy in NY) as 626(921)] (holotype, B destroyed [photo, US]).

Pollalesta faustiana Stutts, *Rhodora* 83: 414. 1981. Syn. nov. TYPE: Venezuela. Bolívar: Río Suapure, along river between Raudal Budare and Raudal Pta. Brava (70–80 river km from mouth), 110–120 m, 17 Jan. 1956, *Wurdack & Monachino 41267* (holotype, K not seen; isotypes, NY, US).

Distribution. Guayana region of Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana, Guyana, Surinam, and Venezuela.

Piptocoma spruceana (Bentham) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Oliganthes spruceana* Bentham in Bentham & Hooker f., *Gen. Pl.* 2: 233. 1873. *Pollalesta spruceana* (Bentham) Aristeguieta, *Bol. Soc. Venez. Ci. Nat.* 23: 270. 1963. TYPE: Venezuela. Amazonas: Río Atabapo, June(–Aug.?) 1854, *Spruce 3705* (holotype, K not seen; isotype, P not seen [photo, US, frag., F not seen]).

Distribution. Guayana region of Venezuela; expected in adjacent Colombia.

Piptocoma vernonioides (HBK) Pruski, comb. nov. Basionym: *Pollalesta vernonioides* HBK, *Nov. Gen. Sp. (folio ed.)* 4: 37, tab. 321. 1818. [*Vernonia dichocarpa* Sprengel, *Syst. Veg.* 3: 437. 1826, nom. superfl.] [*Eupatorium cydoniaefolium* Willdenow ex Lessing, pro syn., *Linnaea* 4: 269. 1829.] *Oliganthes vernonioides* (HBK) Mattfeld, *Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin-Dahlem* 12: 687. 1935. TYPE: Venezuela. Sucre: near Caripe and El Purgatorio, Sep. 1799, *Humboldt & Bonpland 239* (holotype, P not seen [IDC microfiche 6209. 92.II.4; frag., F not seen]; isotypes, B-W 15134 not seen [IDC microfiche 7440. 1089.III.7], P not seen [photo, US]).

Distribution. Venezuela.

EXCLUDED SPECIES

Piptocoma lychnophoroides Lessing, *Linnaea* 4: 316. 1829, nom. illeg. = *Lychnophora trichocarpa* (Sprengel) Sprengel ex Schultz-Bipontinus.

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