



## Lectotypification and a new synonym for *Gymnanthes klotzschiana* (Euphorbiaceae)

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### Abstract

*Gymnanthes klotzschiana* is one of the most problematic species of its genus, not only from a morphological point of view, but also concerning its nomenclature. From among its syntypes, we propose herein the lectotypification of the name. Additionally, studies of herbarium material of *Actinostemon unciformis* and *G. klotzschiana*, including type and historical collections, have shown that they are conspecific. The second name has priority over the first. These considerations are part of an ongoing review of *Gymnanthes*.

**Key words:** Euphorbioideae, Hippomaneae, Bahia, synonymy, plant taxonomy

### Introduction

*Actinostemon* Mart. ex Klotzsch belongs to the tribe Hippomaneae A. Juss. ex Bartl. It includes around 15 Neotropical species (Esser 2012) and has been historically related to *Gymnanthes* Sw. This last genus is considered one of the largest (ca. 45 spp.) and most complex within the tribe due to (1) its inaccurate circumscription (Webster 1983, Esser 2012) and (2) difficult distinction among its species, owing to their morphologically similar flowers and, in some cases, uniformity of vegetative characters (e.g. leaf shape and texture).

The genus *Gymnanthes* was proposed by Swartz (1788), based on *G. elliptica* and *G. lucida*, and was accepted by Müller (1863) and Pax and Hoffmann (1912). However, it was subordinated to *Stillingia* Garden ex L. (as *Stillingia* sect. *Gymnanthes*) by Baillon (1864) and included in *Sebastiania* Spreng. by Müller (1866, 1874). Webster and Huft (1988) and Webster (1994) considered *Actinostemon* a synonym of *Gymnanthes* since they could find no satisfactory distinguishing characters. According to Webster and Huft (1988), *Actinostemon* and *Gymnanthes* had remained as distinct groups due to lack of studies focusing on their delimitation. In fact, few studies were performed on Hippomaneae, among which those conducted by Pax and Hoffmann (1912) and Jablonski (1969) are worth citing. Hence, sufficient diagnostic features that supported *Actinostemon* and *Gymnanthes* as different taxa were unknown. However, Esser (2001, 2012), provided diagnostic characters for both genera. According to him, *Actinostemon* has leaf margins that are always entire, with spaced glands on the blade, several conspicuous imbricate cataphylls that cover the foliar gemmae, and floral bracts that are reduced or absent; whereas *Gymnanthes* has leaf margins subentire to dentate, with glands almost always marginal, only one pair of poorly developed cataphylls, and conspicuous floral bracts