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The resurrection of *Gutierrezia ameghinoi* (Asteraceae, Astereae, Solidagininae), a species from Patagonia, Argentina

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Abstract

Gutierrezia ameghinoi Speg., a species from the Argentinean Patagonia, is resurrected. Its geographical distribution and habitat are described. A key to distinguish *G. ameghinoi* from co-occurring relatives is included. The species is illustrated for the first time.

Resumen

Se rehabilita *Gutierrezia ameghinoi* Speg., una especie de la Patagonia Argentina. Se describe su distribución y hábitat. Se incluye una clave para diferenciarla de las especies afines y con las que convive. Se presenta por primera vez la ilustración de esta especie.

Introduction

Gutierrezia Lagasca (1816: 30) is an American genus of Asteraceae (Astereae, Solidagininae) with a disjunct distribution in North America and South America. It includes species that inhabit xerophytic or halophytic areas of the midwestern United States and southern Mexico in North America, where 18 species were recognised by Nesom (2006). In addition, nearly 15 species are found in southern South America: one in Bolivia, where it was collected in La Paz and Santa Cruz (Solbrig 1996), 6 in Chile in I, II, II, IV, V, VI. XI and XII regions (Zuloaga *et al.* 2008), and 8 in Argentina, growing in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chubut, Córdoba, Jujuy, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Neuquén, Río Negro, Salta, San Juan, San Luis, Santa Cruz, Tierra del Fuego and Tucumán, 6 of which are endemics (Zuloaga & Morrone 1999; Zuloaga *et al.* 2008).

Recently, Ratto & Bartoli (2014, in press) described two new species from Argentina, one endemic to Mendoza and the other from the northwest, the provinces of Jujuy and Salta. These findings raise the number of native species in this country to 10 and the number of endemics to 8.

As part of the revision of this genus, many specimens were found in different herbaria under the name of *Gutierrezia spathulata* (Philippi 1865: 336) Kurtz (1893: 194). However, in their leaf and head features they appeared to differ from the mentioned species. One of the authors of this paper, F. Ratto, had the opportunity to conduct field observations and confirm that the observed characteristics were present in all individual plants detected and that they were part of homogenous populations. At the same time, the characteristics of these specimens coincided with those described for *G. ameghinoi* Spegazzini (1897a: 527).

When Spegazzini (1897a) described *G. ameghinoi,* this description was based on a single specimen from Carlos Ameghino (LPS 11435), collected in 1894 in Puerto Deseado, Santa Cruz. Subsequently, Cabrera (1971a) synonymized *G. ameghinoi* with *G. spathulata*, based on the similarity in the size of flowering heads.

After an exhaustive study of the collected specimens in the field and of the specimens found in several herbaria, it was concluded that the species published by Spegazzini is a valid entity distinct from *G. spathulata*. It differs by having longer elliptical leaves (vs. shorter and broader spatulate leaves in *G. spathulata*), cylindrical or cylindrical-turbinate (vs. ovoid or ovoid-campanulate) involucres, and cymes of numerous heads (vs. the heads solitary or in cymes of 2–3 heads).

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