

CONYZA MICROCEPHALA AS ERIGERON (ASTERACEAE, ASTEREAE)

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ABSTRACT

The Mexican species *Conyza microcephala* Hemsley is transferred to *Erigeron* as **Erigeron columnaris** Nesom, **nom. nov.** (use of "microcephala" as an epithet blocked by earlier names in *Erigeron*). A lectotype is designated for the name.

In order to complete the reunion of ligulate and eligulate species of Mexican *Erigeron*, *Conyza microcephala* Hems. is brought into the nomenclatural fold of *Erigeron*. Evidence indicates unequivocally that *Conyza* species have arisen at least twice from within the phylogenetic topology of *Erigeron* (see Nesom 2018 for other comments).

The eligulate *Erigeron* species were treated as *Conyza* in the Flora of North America North of Mexico (Strother 2006), as the Mesoamerican species also have been (Pruski 2018). Recent California floristic summaries (e.g., Keil & Nesom 2012, 2017), however, have identified them as *Erigeron*, and they will be included there for the Astereae of Mexico (Nesom, in prep.).

Conyza microcephala is the only "conyzoid" species endemic to Mexico (Fig. 1). It was included among the Mesoamerican species by Pruski (2018) on the basis of its occurrence in Chiapas. Nash (1976) included it for Guatemala, noting that it would be expected there, but there have been no reports of its occurrence. Cuatrecasas (1969) included it among the Astereae of Colombia, but Pruski (2018) has noted that the South American record could be based on a different species.

Erigeron columnaris Nesom, **nom. nov.** (non *Erigeron microcephalus* Sch. Bip., Linnaea 34: 534. 1865 [nom. nud.]; non *Erigeron microcephalus* Gand., Contr. Fl. Terr. Slav. Merid. 1: 16. 1883). *Conyza microcephala* Hems., Biol. Centr. Amer. Bot. 2: 126. 1881. **LECTOTYPE** (designated here): **MEXICO. San Luis Potosí.** Ex convalli San Luis Potosí, in montibus San Miguelito, Sep 1876, *J.G. Schaffner 221* (K image!; isolectotype: GH image!). The label on the K sheet has printed "Ex. Herb. A. Gray" and handwritten (by A. Gray) "Schaffner 221 = P. & P. 396, Conyza what spec.?" — the plants apparently separated from the GH material and given to K by Gray. The GH label supplies the fuller information as cited here. Specimens at P and M have printed labels (HERBARIUM v. A. VIGENER) identical to each other, each with August 1879 and with two handwritten numbers, 221 and 662 (see Fig 1).

Protologue: "NORTH MEXICO, San Luis Potosi (*Schaffner*, 221; *Parry & Palmer*, 396). Hb. Kew." The Parry & Palmer collection is cited here.

Mexico. San Luis Potosí. Chiefly in the region of San Luis Potosí, 22° N. Lat., altitude 6000-8000 ft, 1878, *C.C. Parry & E. Palmer 396* (GH image!, K-not seen but as least as implied by Hemsley, MO-as cited on Tropicos, P image!).

Annuals or biennials from a taproot or fibrous roots. **Stems** usually unbranched until the inflorescence, sparsely to moderately hirsute with spreading, coarse, multicellular hairs. **Leaves** lanceolate-oblong to lanceolate, entire to toothed near the apex, less commonly pinnately lobed, ascending, gradually decreasing in size distally, eglandular, the lower sometimes subclasping. **Heads** in compact corymboid clusters; involucre 2.5–5 mm wide; phyllaries with a prominent golden-brown midrib. Ray (pistillate) florets with eligulate corollas.

The new epithet alludes to the column-like stems with closely ascending leaves.



Figure 1. *Erigeron columnaris* (= *Conyza microcephala*), Schaffner 662/221 (P) — see comments in the typification summary.



Figure 2. *Erigeron columnaris* (= *Conyza microcephala*), Rzedowski 44280 (MEXU) from Michoacan.

Chi, Sin, Dur, Zac, Agu, San, Hid, Que, Jal, Mic, Mex, Gue, Oax, Cps, western Guatemala; montane cloud forests in Oax and Cps but more commonly pine-oak woodlands; 1500–2700 m; Jun–Nov.

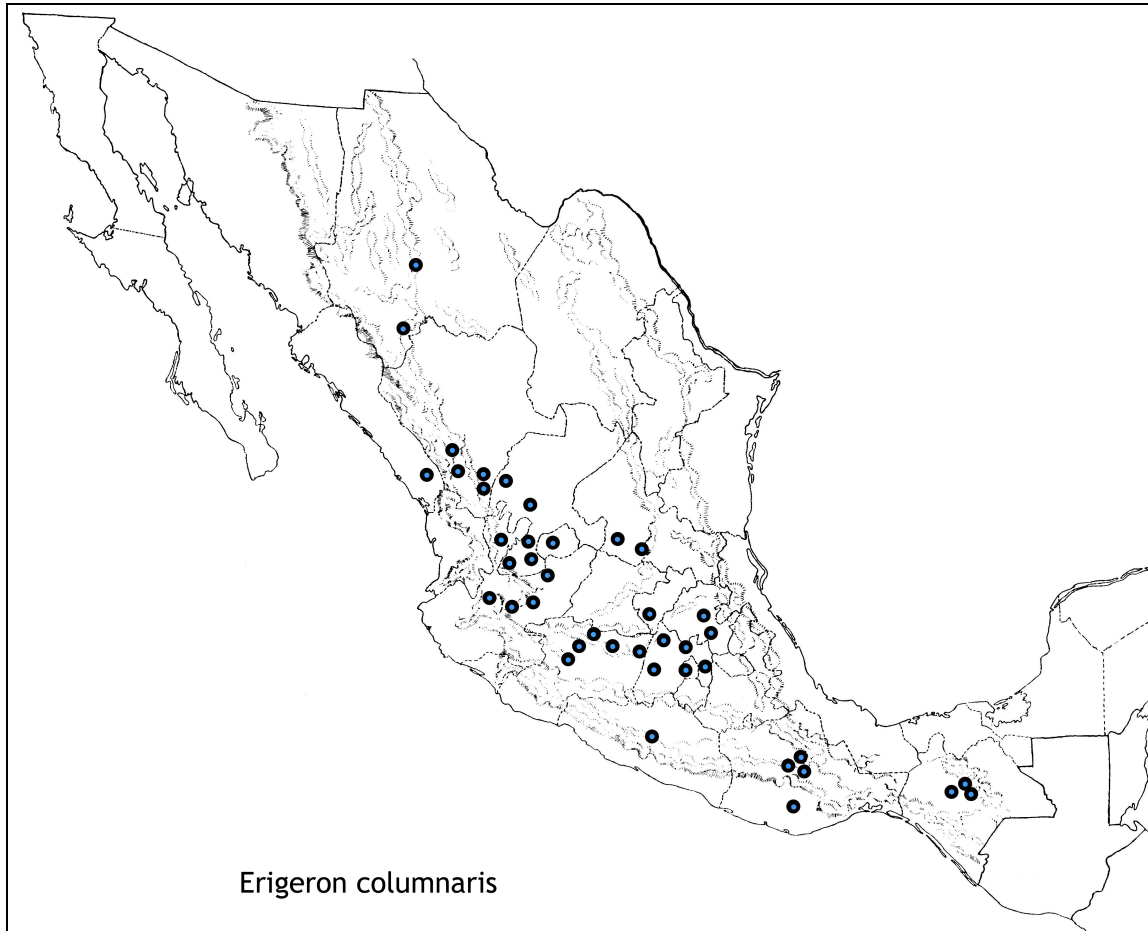


Figure 3. Distribution of *Erigeron columnaris* (= *Conyza microcephala*), an endemic of Mexico. Records from floristic studies of Mexican Astereae, many herbaria, augmented by UNAM Portal (2018).

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