A new species of *Mikania* (Asteraceae, Eupatorieae) from the Western Cordillera of Colombia

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Abstract

A new species of *Mikania* from the northern area of the Western Cordillera of Colombia is described and illustrated. Taxonomic affinities with its closest relatives *M. lloensis* and *M. flabellata* are discussed. The diagnostic traits of the new species are: the long peduncle of the synflorescence; the size of the head; the presence of a midvein in the corolla lobes; the presence of moniliform, multicellular, uniseriate trichomes below the commissural sinuses of the corolla lobes; the insertion of the stamens at the mid-level of the hypocrateriform corolla; and the retuse apical appendages of the anthers. The latter trait is newly used here as diagnostic in the genus.

Key words: Compositae, páramo de Frontino endemism, Mikaniinae, páramo flora

Introduction

The genus *Mikania* Willdenow (1803: 1742), the only member of the subtribe Mikaniinae, is characterized by having heads formed by four involucral bracts and four flowers, and subtended by subinvolucral bracts (King & Robinson 1987). Mikaniinae, the largest subtribe of Eupatorieae (King & Robinson 1987), contains ca. 450 species (Holmes 1996, Funk et al. 2009), which are primarily Neotropical. Until now, 62 species are recorded in Colombia (unpubl. data), which are distributed from the sea level to páramos at about 4000 m of elevation. However, the highest species richness occurs at middle elevations, between 1000 and 2500 m. During the taxonomic revision of the Colombian species of *Mikania*, a specimen collected in the northern part of the Western Cordillera does not match any of the previously described species of the genus. In this paper, that new species of *Mikania* is described and illustrated, along with comments on its taxonomic affinities and the following morphological traits that distinguish the species: peduncle of the synflorescence 13–25 cm long; heads to 17 × 5 mm; presence of a midvein in the corolla lobes; presence of moniliform, multicellular, uniseriate trichomes below the commissural sinuses formed by the corolla lobes; insertion of the stamens at the mid-level of the hypocrateriform corolla; and retuse apical appendages of the anthers.

Taxonomic treatment

*Mikania betancurii* J. Aguilar-Cano & S. Díaz, sp. nov.

Type:—COLOMBIA. Antioquia, municipio de Urrao, vereda El Chuscal “on trail to finca La Quince, above Urrao, 6°30´N, 76°10´W, 2500–2800 m, 21 November 1988, G. McPherson, F. J. Roldán & J. Betancur 13239 (holotype COL!, isotypes HUA!, MO).

Diagnosis:—*Mikania betancurii* is superficially similar to *M. flabellata* Rusby ex Robinson (1920: 14) and *M. lloensis* Hieronymus ex Sodiro (1901: 18) as they all have corymbiform synflorescences with strongly elongate peduncles and larger heads. The new species resembles *M. flabellata* in the overall shape and size of the heads and in the pappus with capillary bristles in 2 or more series; however, *M. betancurii* possesses hypocrateriform corollas, subcordate leaf blades, which are densely papillose below, and larger (13.8–15 × 3–3.4 mm) phyllaries (vs. narrowly...