

**GNAPHALIOTHAMNUS SUBSERICEUS (ASTERACEAE: GNAPHALIEAE)
FROM COSTA RICA**

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ABSTRACT

Gnaphalium subsericeum Blake from Costa Rica is recognized here as **Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus** (Blake) Nesom, **comb. nov.** It has similarities to the recently described *Gnaphaliothamnus baru* from Panama, for which new localities are recorded here, but perhaps is more closely related to *G. salicifolius*. Photographs of herbarium specimens and a distribution map for each of the two Central American endemics are provided.

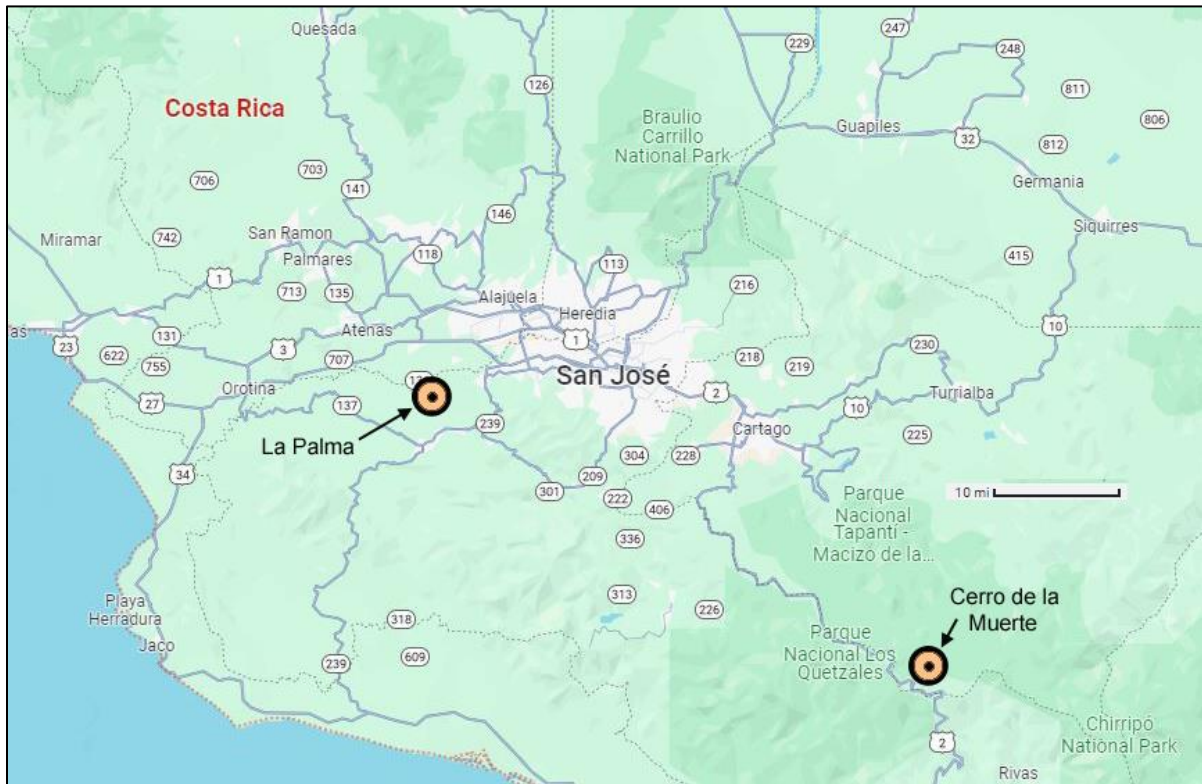
Only shortly after publication of a taxonomic overview of *Gnaphaliothamnus* (Nesom 2023), I became aware of a significant omission — *Gnaphalium subsericeum* Blake of Costa Rica is a species of *Gnaphaliothamnus*. It was placed in *Pseudognaphalium* by Anderberg (1991), but Blake (1927) in the protologue noted that it is "Evidently related to *Gnaphalium* [*Gnaphaliothamnus*] *salicifolium*."

Like *Gnaphaliothamnus salicifolius*, *G. subsericeus* has narrowly lanceolate leaves but the phyllaries are like those of the "lavandulifolius group" (Nesom 2023, p. 4) — ovate-triangular, the apex acute and not sharply distinct from the body and often gray-white, lacking the oblong, bright white, abruptly delimited apical extension of the "salicifolius group." *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus* is perennial and has a slender, woody caudex, but its otherwise completely herbaceous habit is matched within the genus only by the Guatemalan *G. nesomii* (of the salicifolius group) — other species have lignescent stems or caudex branches. *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus* is similar in leaf morphology to the recently described *G. baru* Nesom from Panama, but the latter is subshrubby and has a greater number of bisexual florets and phyllary morphology of the salicifolius group.

GNAPHALIOTHAMNUS SUBSERICEUS (Blake) Nesom, **comb. nov.** *Gnaphalium subsericeum* S.F. Blake, J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 17: 61. 1927. *Pseudognaphalium subsericeum* (Blake) Anderb., Opera Bot. 104: 148. 1991. **TYPE: COSTA RICA.** Prov. San José, La Palma, wet meadow, ca. 1600 m, 3 Feb 1924, *P.C. Standley 32941* (holotype: US).

Perennial herbs from fibrous roots, with a short, unbranched, woody or lignescent caudex. **Stems** 11–18 cm tall, herbaceous (apparently not lignescent), matted white-tomentose, eglandular. **Leaves** all cauline, relatively even-sized, narrowly lanceolate to narrowly elliptic-lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, mostly 4–6 cm long, 3–5 mm wide, epetiolate, slightly subclasping and decurrent ca. 1 mm, bicolor, green and glabrescent adaxially, eglandular, densely matted, white-tomentose abaxially. **Heads** sessile in a single terminal cluster. **Phyllaries** ovate to ovate-triangular, graduate in 4–5 series, longest inner ca. 4 mm long, sparsely tomentose-villous at the base, midzone with an ovate, brown to yellow-brown region and whitish margins, apex acute, not sharply distinct from the body, white. **Pistillate florets** 69. **Bisexual florets** 8, corollas distally red. **Achenes** 0.8 mm long, sparsely pubescent with short, blunt-tipped trichomes; pappus bristles deciduous in groups, not apically thickened.

Additional collection. **COSTA RICA.** Prov. Cartago, páramo, Cerro de la Muerte, 7 Dec 1948, *León 1376* (US).



Map 1. Distribution of *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus*. Costa Rica.



Map 2. Distribution of *Gnaphaliothamnus baru*. Panama.

New record for *Gnaphaliothamnus baru*

PANAMA. Bocas del Toro, Cordillera de Talamanca, headwaters of the Río Culubre, 6 airline km NW of the peak of Cerro Echandi on the Costa Rican-Panamanian international border, 09° 05' N, 82° 50' 30" W, mixed *Quercus-Podocarpus-Magnolia-Symplocus*-laurel forest with *Chusquea* understory, on mossy boulders in stream, 2450-2600 m, 2-3 Mar 1984, *Davidse et al.* 25173 (MO, US).

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- Blake, S.F. 1927. New Asteraceae from Costa Rica. *J. Wash. Acad. Sci.* 17: 59–65.
- Nesom, G.L. 2023. Taxonomic summary of *Gnaphaliothamnus* and *Mexerion* (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae). *Phytoneuron* 2023-50: 1–86.



Figure 1. *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus*. Detail from holotype (Fig. 2), showing the short, woody caudex.



Figure 2. *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus*. Costa Rica. Standley 32941 (US, holotype).



Figure 3. *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus*. Details from the holotype (Fig. 2).



Figure 4. *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus*. Costa Rica. León 1376 (US).



Figure 5. *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus*. Detail from León 1376 (US), Figure 4.



Figure 6. *Gnaphaliothamnus subsericeus*. Detail from León 1376 (US), Figure 4.



Figure 7. *Gnaphaliothamnus baru*. Panama. Davidse et al. 25173 (US).



Figure 8. *Gnaphaliothamnus baru*. Detail from *Davidse et al. 25173*, Fig. 7.