

**GNAPHALIUM CHIMBORAZENSE (ASTERACEAE: GNAPHALIEAE)  
TRANSFERRED TO PSEUDOGNAPHALIUM**

**GUY L. NESOM**

Research Associate

Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

guynesom@sbcglobal.net

**ABSTRACT**

*Gnaohalium chimborazense*, a high elevation species of Ecuador, is recognized as ***Pseudognaphalium chimborazense*** (Hieron.) Nesom, **comb. nov.** A brief description, photos of the type and representative collections, and a map are provided.

*Gnaphalium chimborazense* is a distinctive species of high elevation habitats (stratovolcanoes at 4000–4500 meters) in Ecuador (Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Napo, Pichincha). It is noted by Plants of the World Online (POWO 2024) and Catalog of the Vascular Plants of Ecuador (2024) to be an accepted species but World Flora Online (WFO 2024) lists it as a synonym of *Pseudognaphalium* (*Gnaphalium*) *badium* (Wedd.) Anderb., perhaps following Anderberg (1991), who included it as a questionable synonym of *P. badium*, and following Hieronymus, who compared it to *Gnaphalium badium* in the diagnosis.

The plants are low with decumbent-ascending stems, a branching, fibrous-rooted caudex, very small leaves, and tawny phyllaries (Figs. 2–4). In involucre morphology and papillate achenial surface, these plants belong with South American species of *Pseudognaphalium*, and the nomenclatural transfer is made here.

**PSEUDOGNAPHALIUM CHIMBORAZENSE** (Hieron.) Nesom, **comb. nov.** *Gnaphalium chimborazense* Hieron., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 29: 30. 1900. **TYPE: ECUADOR.** **Protologue:** "Crescit in pascuis montis Chimborazo," 3000–4000 m, 1881, *P.(A.,L.) Sodiro 21/11* (holotype: B-destroyed, photo F!; isotype: QPLS). Figure 1, holotype and isotype.

**Herbs**, short-lived perennial or perhaps annual from a taproot and spreading-creeping, lignescent caudex branches. **Stems** 4–8 cm long, procumbent to decumbent-ascending, eglandular. **Leaves** without a rosette, proximal oblanceolate, 5–10 mm long, 2–3 mm wide, concolor, densely tawny-tomentose on both surfaces, eglandular, margins entire, not revolute, cauline narrowly lanceolate, not clasping or decurrent. **Heads** in a cluster of ca. 8–15 at branch tips. **Involucre**s 5–6 mm high; phyllaries tawny, ovate, apex acute. **Pistillate florets** 65–86, corollas pinkish purple. **Bisexual florets** 6–11, corollas 3 mm long, pink distally. **Achenes** 0.6–0.8 mm long, glabrous, surface papillate (overlapping epidermal cells).

Flowering June–August–January; páramo, gullies, rocky places, along trails; 4000–4500 meters.

**Collections examined.** **ECUADOR.** Napo, Páramo del Antisasna, SW slope of Quebrada del Río Antisana, rocky outcrops and humid páramo, 4250 m, 11 Jan 1979, *Holm-Nielsen 20681* (QCA via JSTOR Global Plants); Napo, SW slopes of Volcán Antisana, 2–3 km N of Hacienda El Hato and 5–6 km NNE of Laguna Nicacocha, grass páramo with open sandy areas, ravines, and rock outcrops, 4200–4300 m, 30 Jun–1 Jul 1979, *Løjtnant & Molau 15333* (US); Cotopaxi, 4000 m, 1973, *Rauh & Barthloh 34598* (US); Napo, Volcán Antisana, rocky gully on the W side of the mountain, 4400–4500 m, 23 Jul 1997, *Sklenar & Sklenarova 2826* (US); Pichincha/Cotopaxi, Volcán Iliniza Sur, on the E side of the mountain, along trail to the refuge, 4200–4400 m, 30 Jul 1995, *Sklenar & Sklenarova 874* (US).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## LITERATURE CITED

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- Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Ecuador. 2024. (a) Missouri Botanical Garden, Herbarium, (b) QCA at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, (c) Herbario Nacional del Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales, Department of Systematic Botany at Aarhus University The Internet Version (W3CEC) <<https://www.mobot.org/mobot/research/ecuador/introduction.shtml>>
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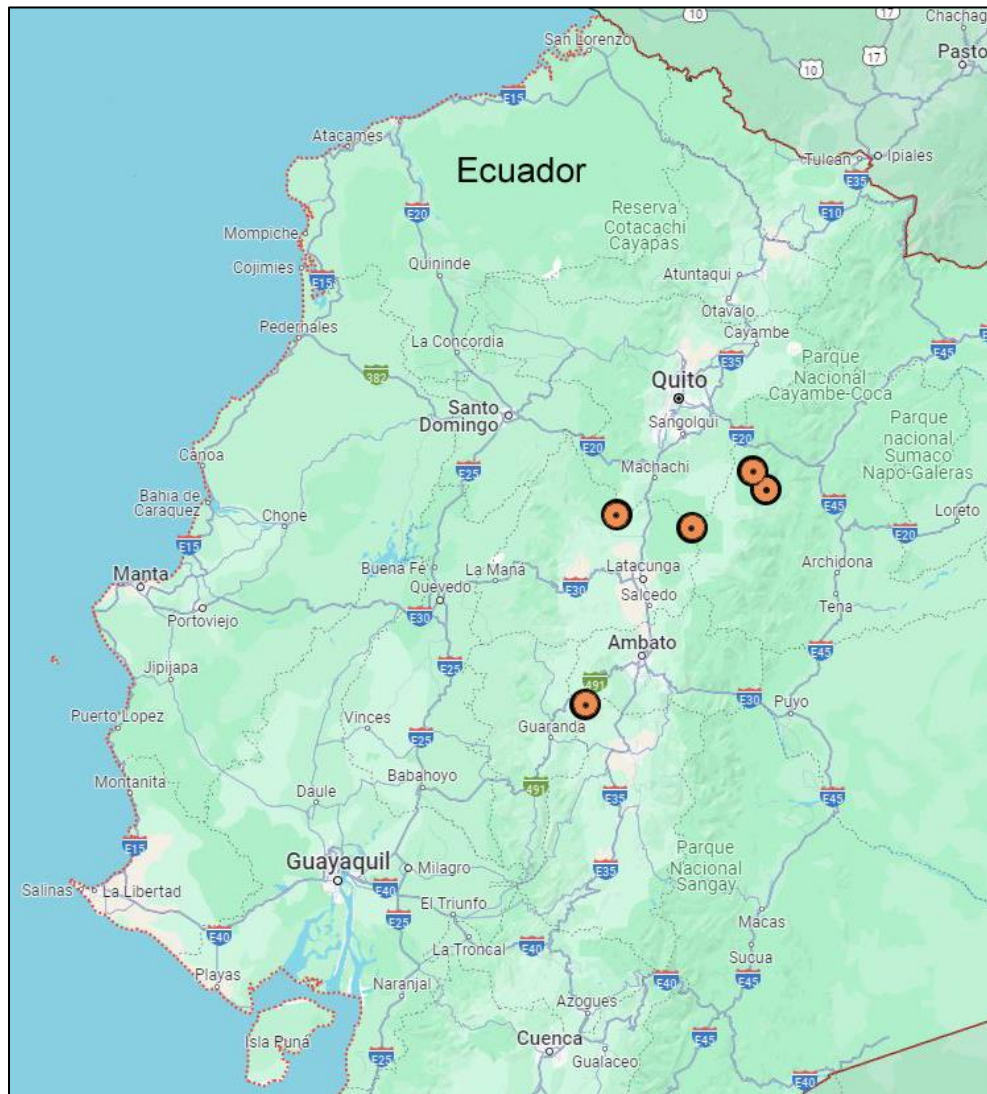


Figure 1. Distribution of *Pseudognaphalium chimborazense*, as mapped from the type and collections cited.



Figure 1. *Gnaphalium chimborazense*. Sodiros 21/11. Above: holotype (B). Below: isotype (QPLS).





Figure 2. *Pseudognaphalium chimborazense*. Ecuador, Napo, Sklenar & Sklenarova 2868 (US).

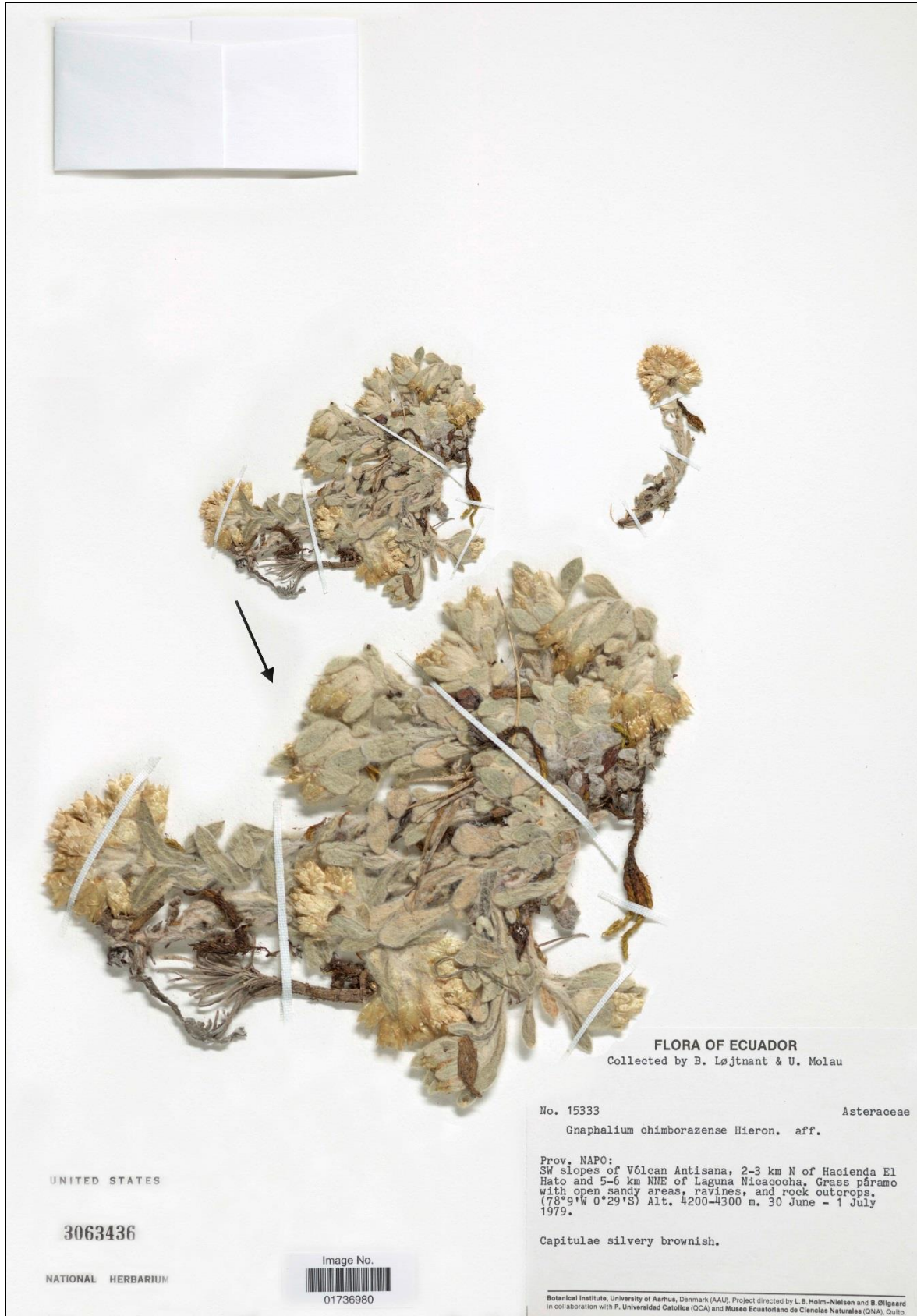


Figure 3. *Pseudognaphalium chimborazense*. Ecuador, Napo, Løjtant & Molau 15333 (US).



Figure 4. *Pseudognaphalium chimborazense*. Ecuador, Napo, Holm-Nielsen 20681 (QCA).