

**GNAPHALIOTHAMNUS FILIFOLIUS (ASTERACEAE: GNAPHALIEAE),
A NEW SPECIES
FROM THE SIERRA DE SANTA MARTA, COLOMBIA**

GUY L. NESOM

Research Associate
Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
guynesom@sbcglobal.net

ABSTRACT

Gnaphaliothamnus filifolius Nesom, **sp. nov.**, from Sierra de Santa Marta in northeastern Colombia is distinct in its ascending, linear-filiform leaves with revolute margins and short-decurrent base, heads in a single terminal cluster, white-appendaged phyllaries, and glabrous achenes. It joins three other species from the Sierra de Santa Marta earlier placed in *Gnaphaliothamnus*. Morphological details and a photo of the type are provided.

White-bracted of Gnaphalieae from the Sierra de Santa Marta in northeastern Colombia include species of *Chryselium* Urtubey & Freire, *Orognaphalon* Nesom, and *Gnaphaliothamnus* Kirpichn. The species of the latter have been placed in *Gnaphalium* L. (Blake 1937), *Chionolaena* DC. (Freire 1993; Robinson 2015), *Pseudoligandra* Dillon & Sagást. (1990), and *Parachionolaena* Dillon & Sagást. (1991), most recently in *Gnaphaliothamnus* by Nesom (2023).

Yet another element of the diversity in *Gnaphaliothamnus* remains to be recognized from the Sierra de Santa Marta. An identification in pencil by Harold Robinson speculated that the collection might be a "var." of *Chionolaena/Pseudoligandra chrysocoma*, but the morphology is outside the range of variation for that species, and it is described here as a distinct species.

GNAPHALIOTHAMNUS FILIFOLIUS Nesom, **sp. nov.** **TYPE: COLOMBIA.** Prov. Magdalena, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, alrededores de cabeceras de Río Sevilla, common on grassy slopes which alternate vertically with rock ledges, Sta. 1, 3410-3470 m, 20 Jan 1959, *H.G. Barclay and P. Juajibioy* 6555 (holotype: US). Figure 1.

Similar to *Gnaphaliothamnus barclayae* and *G. columbianus* in its linear leaves but distinct in their much greater length and loose disposition, not closely appressed to the stem.

Perennial herbs, base and roots not seen. **Stems** 40–50 cm tall, apparently ascending-erect, herbaceous (apparently not lignescent), white-tomentose, eglandular. **Leaves** all cauline (the proximal-most bract-like), ascending to appressed-ascending, linear to filiform, relatively even-sized, mostly 1–3 cm long, 0.5–1 mm wide, margins revolute, base decurrent ca. 1–3 mm, not ampliate, bicolor, light green and glabrescent adaxially, persistently white-tomentose abaxially, eglandular. **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 an oblong, white appendage. **Pistillate florets** 98, fertile. **Bisexual florets** 12, fertile, corollas throat and lobes red. **Achenes** 0.8 mm long, glabrous; pappus bristles weakly connate basally, not apically thickened.



Figure 0. *Gnaphaliothamnus filifolius*. Sierra de Santa Marta, Barclay & Juajibioy 6555 (US). Holotype.

Gnaphaliothamnus filifolius is similar to the other Santa Marta species in lack of stolons, lack of a basal rosette, abundant cauline leaves, heads in a terminal compact cluster, phyllaries with a white apex, and glabrous achenes. It will be interesting to see if molecular data show this compact geographical group to represent a single clade — should they prove to be a distinct lineage apart from *Gnaphaliothamnus*, the earliest name at generic rank would be *Pseudoligandra* Dillon & Sagást. (1990).

Two other elements in the diversity of Colombian *Gnaphaliothamnus* remain to be added (Nesom, in prep.; J. Pruski, in prep.).

Key to *Gnaphaliothamnus* species of Sierra de Santa Marta

1. Leaves linear-oblong to narrowly oblanceolate, 1.5–3 mm wide, spreading to deflexed (proximally) or ascending (distal, cauline), densely arranged proximally, flowering stems unbranched ***Gnaphaliothamnus columbianus*** (Blake) Nesom
1. Leaves linear-oblong to filiform, 0.5–1.5 mm wide, spreading or close ascending-appressed, evenly arranged proximally and distally, flowering stems often branched.
 2. Leaves 10–30 mm long, loosely spreading-ascending, not closely appressed to the stem; pistillate florets 98, bisexual florets 12 ***Gnaphaliothamnus filifolius***
 2. Leaves 4–6 mm long, ascending-erect, appressed to stem and densely imbricate-overlapping (nodes not visible); pistillate florets 4–8 or 20+, bisexual florets 4–8 or 3–6.
 3. Stems 18–40 cm tall; leaves sparsely grayish tomentose, bicolor; pistillate florets 4–8, bisexual florets 4–8 ***Gnaphaliothamnus chrysocoma*** (Wedd.) Nesom
 3. Stems 8–10 cm tall; leaves densely gray-green tomentose, concolor; pistillate florets 20+, bisexual florets 3–6 ***Gnaphaliothamnus barclayae*** (H. Rob.) Nesom

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the staff at herbarium US for their help and hospitality during recent visits there.

LITERATURE CITED

- Blake, S.F. 1937. New Asteraceae from Guatemala and Costa Rica collected by A.F. Skutch. *Brittonia* 2: 329–361.
- Dillon, M.O. y A. Sagástegui Alva. 1990. *Oligandra* Less. revisited and the need for a new genus, *Pseudoligandra* (Asteraceae: Inuleae). *Taxon* 39: 125–128.
- Dillon, M.O. y A. Sagástegui Alva. 1991. Sinopsis de los generos de Gnaphaliinae (Asteraceae-Inuleae) de Sudamerica. *Arnaldo* 1(2): 5–91.
- Freire, S.E. 1993. A revision of *Chionolaena* (Compositae, Gnaphalieae). *Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard.* 80: 397–438.
- Nesom, G.L. 2023. Taxonomic summary of *Gnaphaliothamnus* and *Mexerion* (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae). *Phytoneuron* 2023-50: 1–86.
- Robinson, H. 2015. Notes on the genus *Chionolaena* in Colombia with a new species *Chionolaena barclayae* (Asteraceae, Gnaphalieae). *PhytoKeys* 46: 67–71.