

AGERATINA TOVARAE, A NEW SPECIES FROM
NORTHERN PERU (ASTERACEAE: EUPATORIEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Based on examination of specimens, a new species, *Ageratina tovarae* is recognized from Peru. *Phytologia* 93(1): 94-98 (April 1, 2011).

KEY WORDS: Key words: *Ageratina tovarae*, Cajamarca, Peru, new species

Over 270 species of *Ageratina* Spach are recognized in North America, Central America and western South America. These include the species noted when the genus was first resurrected (King & Robinson 1970) and many added since (King & Robinson 1972, 1987; Robinson 1990, 2001, 2003, 2008; Turner 1997, 2008, 2009).

At this time an additional new species of *Ageratina* needs to be described from northern Peru. Material of the new species has been seen since 1983 and 1984, collected by D.N. Smith, and it has been variously identified as two other Andean species, *Ageratina scopulorum* (Wedd.) R.M. King & H. Rob. or *A. gracilis* (H.B.K.) R.M. King & H. Rob. Recent collections from an ecological study by Carolina Tovar have resulted in a more thorough review of the entity. A position in the typical subgenus *Ageratina* is confirmed, but the species is distinct from either of the two species with which it has previously been identified. The characteristic that all three species share is the comparatively small size, but the species described here is easily distinguished by the clustering of stems at the base of the plant and the short white mostly appressed to slightly spreading puberulence. *Ageratina gracilis*, a primarily Colombian species, is similar to the new

species in the very short petioles, 1-2 mm long, but it is a more commonly decumbent plant with less crowded stems and reddish hairs. *Ageratina scopulorum*, mostly from southern Peru, has less erect stems, petioles usually 3-5 mm long, and more triangular leaves with truncate bases on the blades. The latter species also has more numerous short outer involucre bracts with dark tips. None of the other species of *Ageratina* seen from the area of the northern Andes shows the consistently short white pubescence on the stems and inflorescence seen in the new species.

The new species is named here for the recent collector Carolina Tovar, niece of the botanist Oscar Tovar.

Ageratina tovarae H. Rob., sp. nov. Type: Peru: Cajamarca. Dist. Cajamarca, -78.5438° W -7.0829° S: Alt. 3368 m: 16 June 2009: C. Tovar B 4599 M 1327 (holotype US; isotype CPUN). (Fig. 1).

In habitu parvo fruticosis basaliter dense aggregatis et in caulibus saepe non ramosis et in puberulescentibus brevibus albis plerumque appressis distincta.

Small weak shrubs with stems closely clustered on basal rhizomes or small xylopodia. Stems slender, woody, not or sparsely branching above base, branches strongly ascending; surfaces often reddish, puberulous with short, white, mostly appressed to slightly spreading hairs that give surfaces of stems, branches, peduncles and sometimes involucre bracts a whitish appearance. Leaves opposite, with short petioles 1-2 mm long; blades small, narrowly ovate to lanceolate, 9-24 mm long, 4-12 mm wide, slightly carnosely, bases subacute, margins above broadest part with blunt serrulations, appearing nearly entire, apex strictly acute, surfaces without evident glandular dots, with small hairs on main veins and margins of petioles and base of blade, triplinervate with a pair of strongly ascending secondary veins from near base of blade. Inflorescence terminal, weakly cymiform, with strongly ascending branches, with 1-7 heads per branch; reduced foliiform to linear bracteoles borne alternate at few nodes below heads, peduncles slender, 5-20 mm long. Heads broadly campanulate; involucre 5-7 mm wide, 4-6 mm high; bracts eximbricate, ca. 17, with few shorter bracts outside, inner bracts short-

acute, with scarious tips, with few pale hairs on outer surface. Florets ca. 25 in a head; corollas white, ca. 4.5 mm long, basal tube strongly constricted, ca. 1.5 mm long, throat narrowly funnellform, ca. 2.2 mm long, lobes longer than wide, ca. 0.7 mm long, without evident hairs outside; anther thecae ca. 1 mm long; style base distinctly enlarged, glabrous; style branches slightly broader distally. Achenes ca. 2.3 mm long, slightly fusiform, with setulae on ribs and sides, carpodium stopper-shaped; inner pappus series of fragile capillary bristles ca. 4 mm long, broader in distal half, outer pappus series of narrow scales ca. 0.5 mm long.

Paratypes: Peru: Cajamarca. Cajamarca Prov., Cajamarca – Celendín road, between Cajamarca and Encañada, ca. km 25 (78° 24' W, 7°09' S); 3000 m, Dry shrubby grassland in area of intermittant agriculture, heavily overgrazed, limestone; 15 July 1983; *D.N. Smith & I. Sanchez 4238* (MO, US); Cajamarca – Celendín road, between Cajamarca and Pampa de la Culebra; 3000 m, agricultural land with very disturbed patches of dry, low shrubland; 31 May 1984; *D.N. Smith 7367* (MO, US); Dist. Jesus, -78.338° W -7.25° S; Alt. 2985 msnm, s.d.; *Tovar P5647 M054* (CPUN, US); Dist. Los Baños Delinca, Cajamarca, -78.4539° W -7.0629° S; Alt. 3342 msnm; 16 June 2009; *Tovar B 4457 M1342* (CPUN, US). Where stated the plants are consistently referred to as erect shrubs with white flowers.

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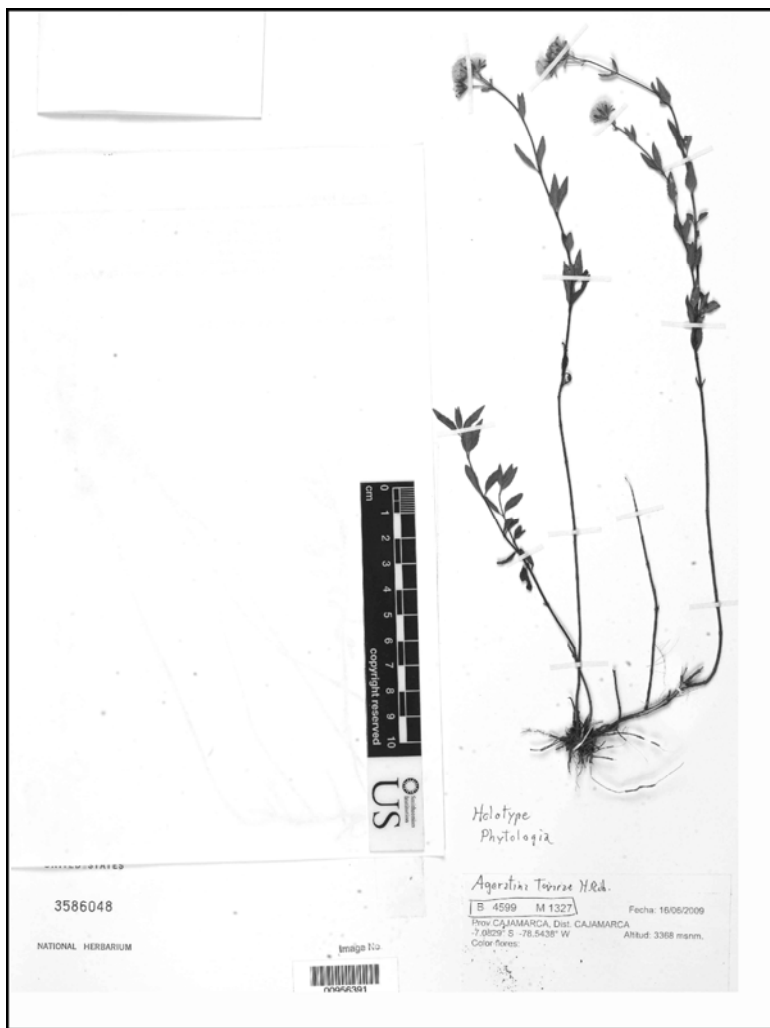


Figure 1. *Ageratina tovarae* H. Rob., holotype, *Tovar B4599 M1327* (US).