

# A NEW COMBINATION IN *EUPLOCA* (HELIOTROPIACEAE) ENDEMIC TO THE GALAPAGOS ARCHIPELAGO, ECUADOR

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**Abstract.** A new combination in *Euploca* (Heliotropiaceae), *E. asperrima*, endemic to the Galapagos Archipelago, Ecuador, is proposed herein.

**Resumen.** En este trabajo se propone una nueva combinación en *Euploca* (Heliotropiaceae), *E. asperrima*, una especie endémica del Archipiélago de Galápagos, Ecuador.

**Keywords:** Boraginales, diversity, flora, nomenclature

The genus *Euploca* (Heliotropiaceae) was proposed by Nuttall (1836) and in its current circumscription, following Diane et al. (2003), also encompasses all the species in *Heliotropium* section *Orthostachys*, as well as the species belonging to the genera *Hilgeria* Förther and *Schleidenia* Endl.

On the basis of Diane et al. (2016), *Euploca* includes about 100 cosmopolitan species. They grow especially in dry zones with centers of taxonomic diversification in Mexico and South America, the later in which it is represented by 33 species. The majority of these (28 spp.) are endemics, corresponding to approximately 85% of all the species, various of them occurring in the Southern Cone (Southern Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia). Only one species occurs in Chile (*E. procumbens* (Mill.) Diane & Hilger), and two species are reported from Ecuador, one of them endemic to the Galapagos Archipelago.

*Euploca* species, vegetatively, are herbs, subshrubs, and rarely shrubs. The leaves are alternate to pseudo-opposite, rarely pseudoterminal, linear to broadly ovate or obovate. Inflorescences are 1-pluribranching, rarely ebracteose (encompassing a small group of species predominantly found in South America, e.g., *E. barbata* (DC.) J. I. M. Melo & Semir, a species restricted to the Caatinga vegetation, in Northeastern Brazil), many-flowered or presenting single flowers as in *E. lagoensis* (Warm.) Diane & Hilger, a species largely distributed in the Neotropics, and *E. parciflora* (Mart.) J. I. M. Melo & Semir, an endemic species from Brazil (Caatinga and Cerrado). Fruit are dry, separating into four 1-seeded mericarps (Diane et al., 2016) adapted to hydrochory (water-dispersed as probably in *E. paradoxa*

(Mart.) J. I. M. Melo & Semir, endemic to Brazil) and myrmecochory (ant-dispersed).

According to The Plant List (2018), *Euploca* currently encompasses only 43 names. This compilation needs updating if the binomials recently transferred to *Euploca* by Feuillet (2016), Luebert and Frohlich (2016), Feuillet and Hasle (2016, 2017), Melo (2017a,b), and Melo and Gonçalves (2018) are to be considered.

Considering the current morphological characterization of *Euploca*, here one species of a *Heliotropium* endemic from South America (Galapagos Archipelago, Ecuador) is transferred to the genus *Euploca* (Heliotropiaceae sensu BWG, 2016; Diane et al., 2016).

***Euploca asperrima*** (Andersson) J.I.M. Melo, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Sarcanthus asperrimus* Andersson, Kongl. Svenska Vetensk. Acad. Handl. 1853: 209. 1855. TYPE: ECUADOR. Galápagos, Indefatigable, Santa Cruz, 1852, *N.J. Andersson s.n.* (Holotype: S [06-4203; photograph seen]; Isotypes: BR [0000006966881, photograph seen]; F [0052468; photograph seen]; K [000583561; photograph seen]; GH [00097157; photograph seen], GOET [000383; photograph seen]; L [0003986; photograph seen]; MEL [2438377; photograph seen], P [00610142, photograph seen]).

Homotypic synonyms: *Heliotropium asperrimum* (Andersson) Andersson, Freg. EngeniesRosa Bot.: 86. 1861, *Nom. Illeg., non* R. Br. (1810).

*Heliotropium anderssonii* B.L. Rob., Proc. Amer. Acad. Sci. 38: 192. 1911, replaced synonym, *non* R. Brown (1810).

**Distribution:** Ecuador (Galapagos Archipelago).

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