

STUDIES IN THE EUPATORIEAE (ASTERACEAE). CLXI.

A NEW SPECIES OF STEVIA FROM COSTA RICA.

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Stevia, one of the largest genera in the tribe has recently been monographed for North America by the late Jerold L. Grashoff¹ (1972). During the course of his study Grashoff (1974) added 16 new species for the area. However, continued plant exploration in Costa Rica has yielded yet another unnamed species which we describe below.

Stevia westonii R.M.King & H.Robinson, sp. nov.
Plantae minutae herbaceae rhizomatosae 2-5 cm altae mediocriter ramosae. Caules graciles, internodiis brevibus 2-5 mm longis albo-puberulis. Folia opposita sessilia; laminae anguste ellipticae vel anguste oblongae base cuneatae margine integrae vel subintegrae apice anguste rotundatae subtus glandulo-punctatae supra in nervis sparse puberulae subtus in nervis sparse pilosae. Inflorescentiae minutae dense corymbosae. Capitula ca. 12 mm alta. Squamae involucri 5 purpureae ca. 7 mm longae et 1.5 mm latae anguste oblongae margine non scarosae apice acutae extus minute albo-pilosae et minute glandulo-punctatae. Flores 5; corollae ca. 8 mm longae plerumque purpureae in lobis pallidae, tubis ca. 1 mm longis glabris, faucis 4.5 mm longis cylindricis extus sparse glandulo-punctatis superne pilosis intus hirsutis, lobis ovatis vel ellipticis ca. 2 mm longis 1.0-1.4 mm latis extus sparse glandulo-punctatis et albo-pilosis; filamenta antherarum in parte superiore 0.25 mm longa; thecae 1.8 mm longae; appendices antherarum obovatae ca. 0.5 mm longae et 0.25 mm latae, margine et extus papilloso-crenulatae apice irregulariter lobatae; basi stylorum nodiformes glabri. Achaenia uniformia ca. 4 mm longa glabra ad apicem interdum minute spiculifera; aristae pappi 5 ca. 7 mm longae rubrae ad basem vix alatae, squamis intermediis minutis ca. 0.15 mm altae. Grana pollinis ca. 25-27 μ diam (Type 1).

¹ 1945-1976

TYPE: COSTA RICA: Rio Talari, Chirripo massif, 3,350 m. 26 January 1976. Arthur S. Weston 10077 (Holotype US).

References

Grashoff, J. L. 1972. A systematic study of the north and central american species of Stevia. Ph. D. dissertation, University of Texas, 609 pages.

_____. 1974. Novelities in Stevia (Compositae-Eupatorieae). Brittonia 26:347-384.

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HERBARIUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

COSTA RICA

Stevia westonii R.M.King & H.Robinson
Holotype

Semi-prostrate herb on dry cliff face.

Flowers: tube and lower side of lobes red-purple; lobes 5 (sometimes 4), slightly irregular, white above.

Rio Talari, Chirripo massif, 3350 m.

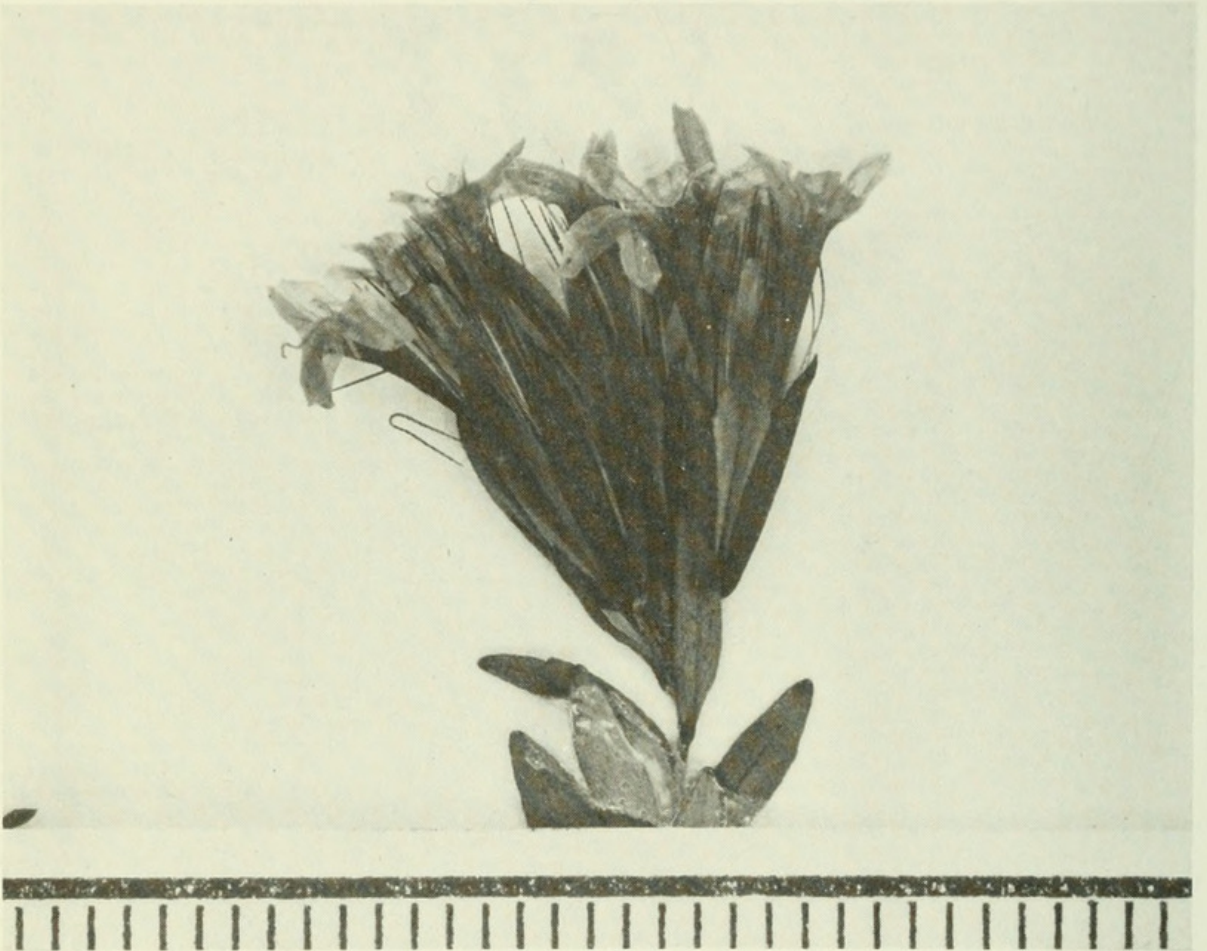
ARTHUR S. WATSON 10077 26 January, 1976.

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Stevia westonii R.M.King & H.Robinson, Holotype,
United States National Herbarium. Photos by Victor E.
Krantz, Staff Photographer, National Museum of Natural
History.



Stevia westonii R.M.King & H.Robinson,
enlargement of head.



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