

THE GENUS *LIABUM* (ASTERACEAE, LIABEAE) IN THE DOMINICAN
REPUBLIC AND HAITI

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ABSTRACT

Liabum in the Dominican Republic and Haiti is treated as having but a single variable species, *L. poiteauii* (Cass.) Urb. The seven other names of *Liabum* proposed for this region are treated as synonyms.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Liabeae, *Liabum*, Haiti, Dominican Republic, systematics

LIABUM Adanson

Perennial herbs or shrublets. Leaves simple, mostly bicolored, opposite, usually connate, often forming a nodal disk; petioles usually winged; blades broadly ovate to elliptical, 3-nervate from or near the base, the margins serrate. Heads campanulate, one to numerous in a rather open or congested capitulescence. Involucres campanulate to broadly turbinate, 5-6 seriate, the bracts ovate (outermost series) to lanceolate, graduate, persistent. Receptacle with bristly chaff or strongly alveolate. Ray florets 20-120 or more, usually in 2 or more series, the ligules linear and yellow. Disk florets 10-80+, the corollas yellow. Achenes small, prismatic, ca. 10-ribbed, hispidulous, the inner pappus of 15-40 white or tawny bristles. Base chromosome number, $x=9$.

Type: *Liabum brownei* Cass. [= *L. umbellatum* (L.) Sch.-Bip.]

According to Robinson (1983), a genus of perhaps 37 species, most of these found in South America. A single highly variable species occurs in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Robinson (1983) recognized six species as occurring in this region, but all of these appear to be but forms of *Liabum poiteauii*.

- LIABUM POITEAUI* (Cass.) Urb., Ark. Bot. 23A:87. 1931. BASIONYM: *Andromachia poiteaui* Cass., Bull. Soc. Philom. 184. 1817. TYPE: HAITI. "in via ad Barriere Couchant," *Poiteaui s.n.* (P, not examined).
- Liabum domingense* Rydb., Fl. N. Amer. 34:290. 1927. TYPE: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: near Constanza, Santa Domingo, 1400 m, *Tuerckheim 3113* (HOLOTYPE: NY!).
- Liabum subacaule* Rydb., Fl. N. Amer. 34:290. 1927. TYPE: HAITI: Between Petit Borgne and Mount Casse, *Nash 502* (HOLOTYPE: NY!).
- Liabum barahonense* Urban, Arkiv. Bot. 23A:85. 1931. TYPE: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: prov. Barahona near Paradis, 150 m, *Tuerckheim 2785* (Isotype: NY!).
- Liabum oblanceolatum* Urb. & Ekman, Arkiv. Bot. 23A:89. 1931. TYPE: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Santo Domingo, Prov. de la Vega, Cordillero Central, "in scopulosis umbrosis Valle Nuevo ad rivulum", 2400 m, *Ekman H. 13827* (HOLOTYPE: S, not examined).
- Liabum ovatifolium* Urb., Arkiv. Bot. 23A:89. 1931. TYPE: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Santo Domingo, Prov. Espaillat, near Moca, "in colonia Jamao locos saxosis", 900 m, *Ekman H. 12578* (HOLOTYPE: S, not examined).
- Liabum polycephalum* Urb. & Ekman, Arkiv. Bot. 23A:88. 1931. TYPE: HAITI: Massif de la Hotte, near Torbec above Lie-Mare-Proux, 900 m, *Ekman H. 5346* (Isotype: NY!).
- Liabum selleanum* Urb., Arkiv. Bot. 23A:86. 1931. TYPE: HAITI: "Massif de la Selle in decivibus Morne Cabaio", 1950 m, *Ekman H. 1548* (Isotype: NY!).

After examination of a large suite of specimens of *Liabum* from Haiti and the Dominican Republic (GBSD, NY, LL, TEX), I conclude that there is but a single highly variable species on the island concerned, this being *Liabum poiteaui*, the earliest available name for the aggregate. Urban, in his recognition of that species (among many others!), noted that Rydberg's acceptance of *L. cubense* Rydb. as occurring in Haiti was a misidentification of forms referable to *L. poiteaui*. I concur with this assessment.

Finally, I should note that a broader species concept than that espoused here might show that *Liabum umbellatum* (L.) Sch.-Bip. will encompass *L. poiteaui*, but my cursory examination of a wide range of Caribbean material suggests otherwise.

This research was occasioned by my early efforts to "work up" the genus *Liabum* for the Dominican Republic. This has now been superseded by a more ambitious study over a broader region by others.

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