

EVOLUTIONARY MONOGRAPH 5. The New World Species of *Cynanchum* L. Subgenus *Mellichampia* (A. Gray ex S. Wats.) Woods. (Asclepiadaceae), by Eric Sundell. ii+63pp. September, 1981. Initial price \$6.40; \$5.50 to individuals.

Abstract: This monograph comprises a taxonomic study of *Cynanchum* L. subgenus *Mellichampia* (A. Gray ex S. Wats.) Woods. (Asclepiadaceae), a group of tropical and subtropical, perennial, herbaceous, twining vines with milky sap. The study is based upon the examination of dried plant specimens from 32 European and American herbaria.

Subgenus *Mellichampia* is understood to include 11 species (including 2 species and 2 varieties described as new) in 4 sections, ranging from southern South America to the northcentral United States. The largely South American section *Roulinia*, closely related to paleotropical *Cynancha* of the *Cynoctonom* alliance and putatively the most primitive section of subgenus *Mellichampia* in the New World, consists of 3 more or less geographically restricted riparian species and a fourth species, *Cynanchum montevidense* Spreng., widely distributed from Jamaica and Panama south to the vicinity of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Section *Metalepis*, comprising 2 widely disjunct species of southern South America and Central America and the West Indies, is considered to be a relatively ancient group of uncertain affinities. Four species are recognized in the largely Mexican and Central American section *Mellichampia*: *E. racemosum* (Jacq.) Jacq. with 6 varieties is found from northern Colombia and Venezuela to southern Texas in the United States, while *C. jaliscanum* (Vail) Woods., *C. foetidum* (Cav.) H.B.K., and *C. ligulatum* (Benth.) Woods. are more narrowly distributed in the Mexican highlands, the last species extending into southern Arizona in the United States. Finally, *C. laeve* (Michx.) Pers., of the nonotypic section *Ampelamus*, is a rather weedy species of temperate North America.

Nine species are treated in full. However, because the affinities with *Mellichampia* of the remaining two species, *Cynanchum cubense* (A. Rich.) Woods. and *C. laeve*, were not originally suspected, herbarium material sufficient for critical study was not obtained. In addition, *Roulinia parviflora* Decne. is excluded from subgenus *Mellichampia*, although its transfer to *Cynanchum* as well as a new name within that genus are proposed.

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