



## New combinations in *Pleradenophora* (Euphorbiaceae s.s.)

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### Abstract

A nomenclatural update is presented for the (hitherto monotypic) genus *Pleradenophora*. New combinations are presented for *Pleradenophora bilocularis*, *P. lottiae*, *P. membranifolia*, *P. tikalana* and *P. tuerckheimiana* (based on *Sebastiania bilocularis*, *S. lottiae*, *S. membranifolia*, *S. tikalana* and *Sapium tuerckheimianum*), and four new synonyms are proposed. A key to the species is provided. The genus currently comprises five species, distributed from the United States to Bolivia, with the highest diversity in Mexico and Guatemala.

**Key words:** Brazil, Central America, Hippomaneae, Mexico, *Sapium*, *Sebastiania*, United States

### Introduction

The genus *Pleradenophora* of Euphorbiaceae, subfamily Euphorbioideae, tribe Hippomaneae was described by Esser (2001: 377), although it had been first recognized as a separate genus in the unpublished thesis of Esser (1994). In 2001 Esser published only one combination under the genus, for its type, *P. longicuspis* (Standley 1932: 134) Esser (2001: 377) from Belize. At that time it was already obvious that additional species were involved, such as the North-American plant known as *Sebastiania bilocularis* Watson (1885: 374), but the species needed a more thorough study.

During a recent revision of *Sebastiania* Sprengel (1821: 118) *sensu stricto* (sect. *Eusebastiania* Müller 1874: 582) by Melo (2006), more species from the southern US and northern Mesoamerica were studied that should be placed in *Pleradenophora*, bringing the number of species up to four. Esser (2012) indicated another, isolated species from South America, *S. membranifolia* Müller (1874: 679), that, together with several synonyms, should be transferred to *Pleradenophora*.

The species of *Pleradenophora* have previously been classified under *Sapium* Jacquin (1760: 9) and *Sebastiania* (e.g., by McVaugh 1995, Kruijt 1996, Steinmann & Felger 1997, Govaerts *et al.* 2000). These genera can be distinguished by morphological characters of leaves, staminate flowers, fruits and seeds (Table 1). *Pleradenophora* differs from *Sapium* by, e.g., the dry seeds without an aril and by staminate flowers with usually three or more stamens (versus seeds with a red aril and staminate flowers with two stamens), and from *Sebastiania* by, e.g., leaves often with petiolar glands, flowers with a distinctly fused calyx at least in staminate flowers, fruits with a thicker wall, the mericarp septa with a triangular split at the base and only one vascular strand each (versus leaves usually eglandular, staminate flowers with free to only very slightly fused sepals, fruits with a thinner wall, the mericarp septa without a basal triangular split and usually three vascular strands each) (Esser 2001, 2012).