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New Spanish nothotaxa in the genus *Teucrium* L. (*Lamiaceae*)

Abstract

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Four new nothospecies are described in the genus *Teucrium*, from eastern Spain: *T. xconquense* (*T. capitatum* x *T. gnaphalodes*), *T. xgnaphaureum* (*T. aureum* x *T. gnaphalodes*), *T. xmaestracense* (*T. aureum* x *T. expassum*) and *T. xpseudoaragonense* (*T. angustissimum* x *T. expassum*). The name *T. xcoeleste* Schreber (pro sp.) is revived, to apply to hybrids derived between *T. angustissimum* and *T. capitatum*.

Introduction

In the eastern half of the Iberian Peninsula there exist many taxa belonging to the genus *Teucrium* L., most of them endemics with a small distribution area. Their areas very often overlap, and it is quite usual to find mixed populations formed of two or three such taxa. During our studies on taxa of *Teucrium* sect. *Polium* in the eastern mountains of Spain we noticed the existence of morphologically intermediate individuals in such intermingled populations, which we regard as hybrids.

Taxonomists know how easily species of some genera of *Lamiaceae* (e.g., *Marrubium*, *Lavandula*, *Mentha*, *Phlomis*, *Prunella*, *Satureja*, *Sideritis*, *Thymus*) produce hybrids. This also applies in the genus *Teucrium*, in which several nothotaxa have been described from Spain (Sennen 1912, 1917, 1936, Font Quer 1920, 1926, 1946, Alcaraz & al. 1988, Pajarón & Molina 1989, etc.). The taxonomy of the genus *Teucrium* is not, however, completely understood in the Iberian Peninsula, which has likely contributed to the fact that an indeterminate number of nothotaxa which exist in that area still remain unnoticed. In this paper we undertake the study of several such unpublished Spanish nothotaxa.

Results and discussions

Teucrium xcoeleste Schreber, Pl. Verticill. Unilab.: 49. 1773, pro sp. (*T. angustissimum* Schreber x *T. capitatum* L. [subsp. *gracillimum* (Rouy) Valdés-Bermejo]). — Lectotype: Herb. Schreber no. 5277 (M).

Next to the "Cartuja de Porta-Coeli", Valencia Province (30SYJ19), as well as on the mountains called "Montes de Porta-Coeli", one can find *Teucrium angustissimum* and *T. capitatum* subsp. *gracillimum* living together on calcareous soils in disturbed, sunny



Fig. 1.- Lectotype of *Teucrium xcoeleste* Schreber (Herb. Schreber No. 5277 M): partial view, showing details of the inflorescences, calyces and leaves.

habitats. Among the typical forms of these two Spanish endemics, one can commonly observe some individuals showing intermediate morphological characteristics, which can be regarded as hybrids.

Schreber (1773: 49) described a taxon from exactly this place, living "in praecelsis montibus regni valentini, praecipue ad carthusiam porta coeli dictam", which he called *Teucrium coeleste* (Fig. 1). In the original description, he pointed out affinities between *T. coeleste* and both *T. angustissimum* and *T. valentinum* as follows: "In multis cum priori [*T. angustissimum*] et *T. valentino* convenit; ... Folia floralia inverse lanceata aut linearia, sed laxius, tomentosus quam *T. angustissimi*, obtusa, tomentosa... Cal. viridis, magis, sed laxius, tomentosus quam *T. angustissimo*, ore tomento repleto, dentibus triangularibus acutis, neque, *T. valentini* modo, lanceatis obtusis...". These sentences in the protologue, that indeed recall the diagnosis of a nothotaxon, led us to take into consideration this almost forgotten name.

Study of the type material of *Teucrium coeleste* kept in the Munich Herbarium (M), confirmed that, in particular with respect to the features of the leaves, indumentum and shape of the calyx, and form of the corolla, Schreber's single specimen is exactly alike the afore-mentioned hybrid individuals. We therefore propose to revive the name *Teucrium xcoeleste* to designate all plants derived from the crosses between *T. angustissimum* and *T. capitatum*, noting that the type specimen corresponds to the hybrid *T. angustissimum* x *T. capitatum* subsp. *gracillimum*, the two only taxa of *Teucrium* growing in Schreber's classical locality.

Teucrium xconquense M. B. Crespo & G. Mateo, **nothosp. nov.** [*T. capitatum* L. (subsp. *capitatum*) x *T. gnaphalodes* L'Hér.]. — **Holotype:** Hs, Cuenca: Serranía de Cuenca, pr. Aliaguilla, 30SXX40, ad 1100 m alt., inter parentes, 16.6.1976, G. Mateo (VAB 76/546, the uppermost specimen on the sheet). Fig. 2.

A *Teucrium capitatum* subsp. *capitato* discrepat caulibus ascendentibus, pilis longioribus obtectis; foliis albidis, magis revolutis crenatisque; inflorescentia densiore, angustius ramosa, glomerulis pinguioribus; calycibus majoribus, pilis longioribus vestitis; corollis rubentibus, labello bis longiore. A *T. gnaphalode* differt statura majore, caulibus erectioribus, brevius repentibus, vix radicantibus; foliis levius crenatis et laxius albotomentosis; inflorescentia magis ramosa; corollis minoribus, labello brevior.

Teucrium gnaphalodes (sensu lato) is endemic to the southwestern Mediterranean and is widely distributed throughout the eastern part of the Iberian Peninsula, principally growing on disturbed ground overgrazed by herds of sheep and goats. In such places, it often grows together with *T. capitatum*, a very common taxon in high, continental areas of Spain. We have found several individuals bearing intermediate features between *T. capitatum* and *T. gnaphalodes*, growing on slightly nitrified sandy soils in the Cuenca Province. We have interpreted such plants as being hybrids derived from the cross of these two taxa, and, since there appears to be no earlier name available for them, we are describing them as a new nothospecies, *T. xconquense*.

Teucrium xgnaphaureum M. B. Crespo & G. Mateo, **nothosp. nov.** (*T. aureum* Schreber x *T. gnaphalodes* L'Hér.). — **Holotype:** Hs, Teruel: Castelserás, 30TYL43, ad 450 m alt., inter parentes, 7.1978, J. Mansanet & al. (VAB 78/253, the specimen in the upper lefthand corner of the sheet). Fig. 3.

