

A New Species of *Leucheria* (Asteraceae, Mutisieae) from Chile

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Leucheria* Lagasca (Asteraceae, Mutisieae), *L. graui* Katinas, M. C. Tellería & Crisci, with glutinous habit and yellow corollas is described and illustrated. This would be the only species within *Leucheria* with yellow corollas. The pollen of the new species is also described and illustrated; it belongs to the *Oxyphyllum* Philippi pollen type and has similar characteristics to other species of *Leucheria*. The new species appears to be morphologically close to *L. apifolia* Philippi, which belongs to the relatively primitive *L. glacialis* (Poeppig ex Lessing) Reiche evolutionary line of dry environments.

Key words: Asteraceae, Chile, IUCN Red List, *Leucheria*, Mutisieae.

The genus *Leucheria* Lagasca comprises 47 species distributed from Peru to the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) in Argentina (Crisci, 1976). These plants belong to the subtribe Nassauviinae (Asteraceae, tribe Mutisieae, or subfamily Mutisioideae; Jeffrey, 2007; Katinas et al., in press), which is characterized by its genera with capitula florets all bilabiate; the styles cleft into two truncate branches, each branch with an apical crown of rounded papillae; and the exine of the pollen grains distinctly bilayered, with the ectosexine and the endosexine clearly columellate (Crisci, 1974; Tellería et al., 2003). The species of *Leucheria* are typically distributed in the Andes, in extra-Andean areas of Chile, and in the Patagonian steppe. *Leucheria* is distinguished from other members of Nassauviinae by its herbaceous habit, paleae in the capitula of some species, involucre in two or more series, glabrous receptacle, florets rarely yellow, and capillary pappus in one series, frequently plumose. The pollen grains of *Leucheria* are of the *Oxyphyllum* Philippi pollen type, with the ectosexine and

endosexine of the same thickness, separated by a thin internal tectum in zigzag, a characteristic shared with the genera *Nassauzia* Commerson ex Jussieu, *Triptilion* Ruiz & Pavón, and *Polyachyrus* Lagasca (Crisci, 1974). Recent molecular studies (Katinas et al., 2008) show a sister relationship between *Leucheria* and *Polyachyrus*, and both are sister of *Moscharia* Ruiz & Pavón.

The species described here—*Leucheria graui* Katinas, M. C. Tellería & Crisci—was discovered around Laguna del Maule in central Chile, during a field trip of the German botanist Jürke Grau. The striking characteristic of this new species is the yellow color of the corollas, a very rare feature since all the species of *Leucheria* described until now have white, pink, red, purple, or blue corollas. Also, *L. graui* is one of the few species of *Leucheria* covered exclusively with glandular hairs, since most species have white lanose pubescence (frequently the nonglandular hairs are mixed with glandular hairs).

***Leucheria graui* Katinas, M. C. Tellería & Crisci, sp. nov.** TYPE: Chile. Región VII, Prov. Maule: Laguna del Maule, rocas al O de la laguna, 2300 m, 25 Jan. 1981, J. Grau 2993 (holotype, LP; isotypes, CONC, M not seen). Figures 1, 2.

Al Leucheria apifolia Philippi differt folii lobis profundis, angustioribus, floribus 50 ad 60, flavescentibus, et fructus trichomatibus distinctus ex cellulis 4 compositis.

Perennial, caulescent herbs, 15–30 cm tall, stems striate, densely glandulose. Leaves simple, bipinnatisect, basal leaves in a rosette, upper leaves alternate, herbaceous, densely glandulose on both surfaces, glandular hairs uniseriate, margin planate, sessile, pseudopetiolate, pinnately veined, veins conspicuous

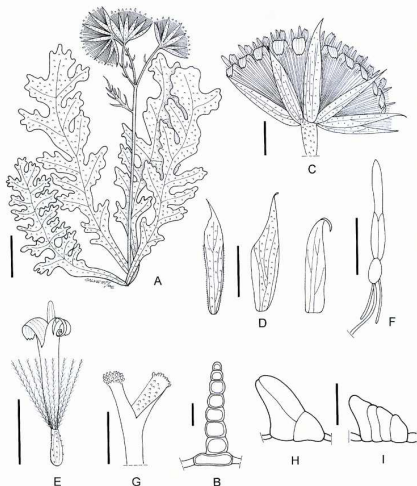


Figure 1. *Leucheria graui* Katinas, M. C. Telleria & Crisci. —A. Habit. —B. Vegetative glandular hair. —C. Capitulum. —D. Phyllaries of the involucre. —E. Floret with cypselum and pappus. —F. Stamen. —G. Style apex. —H. Cypselum basic twin hair. —I. Cypselum crenate twin hair. From the holotype *Genes* 2893 (LP). Scale bars: A = 2 cm; B, H, I = 50 μ m; C–E = 5 mm; F = 2 mm; G = 1 mm.

on both surfaces; blades oblong to elliptic, 6–17 $\times$ 1.5–8 cm, segments narrowly oblong, narrowly oblanceolate, or oblanceolate, pinnatifid to pinnatisect, 0.5–3.5 $\times$ 1.5–2 cm, apex acute or acuminate. Capitulescences corymbose; capitula hemispheric, 12–15 $\times$ 15–26 mm, homogamous, discoid, pedunculate, peduncle bracteate; receptacle naked; involucre 2- or 3-seriate, 10–11 $\times$ 16–30 mm, phyllaries

narrowly oblong to elliptic, long attenuate at the apex, margin shortly ciliate, veins purple, first series 5 to 7, 10–13 $\times$ 1.5–3 mm, scarious at the margins, glandulose, second series 2 to 5, 10–12 $\times$ ca. 2 mm, glandulose, scarious at the margins, third series 0 to 3, 10–12 $\times$ 1.5–2 mm, glabrous, completely scarious. Florets isomorphic, bisexual, 50 to 60 per capitulum, corollas bilabiate, yellow, tube 4–8 mm, outer lip

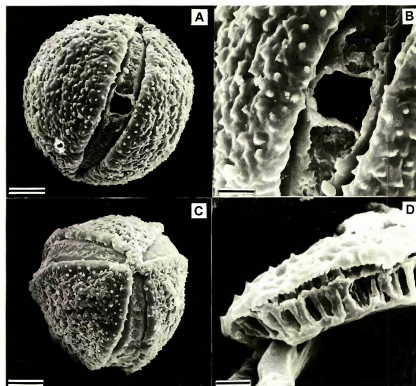


Figure 2. Pollen of *Leucheria graui* Kutinas, M. C. Tellería & Crisci. —A. Equatorial view. —B. Detail of aperture and pollen surface. —C. Polar view. —D. Exine structure from a broken grain. From the holotype *Graui* 2893 (LP). Scale bars: A, C = 5 μ m; B, D = 2 μ m.

3-toothed, 4–7 mm, inner lip bifid, 4–7 mm; stamens inserted in the corolla throat, anthers 4–5.5 mm, apical appendage lanceolate, acute, tails smooth, ca. 2 mm, conspicuous antheropodium in the insertion of the filament to the anthers; style 8–9 mm, cleft into 2 truncate branches, each branch 1–1.5 mm, with an apical crown of rounded papillae, nectariferous disc at the base of the style. Cypselae (immature) 2–2.5 mm, constricted at the apex by an epigynous disc, 5-costate, pubescent (typical and atypical twin hairs, rarely glandular hairs biseriolate); puppus 6–6.6 mm, uniseriate, bristles united at the base, capillary, plumose.

Pollen (light microscopy) spheroidal to subprolate, spheroidal in equatorial view, circular in polar view, medium size, polar diameter $\times$ equatorial diameter = 29–35 $\times$ 23–32 μ m; tricolporate, colpi long, with

microgranulate membrane; endoaperture bilongate; exine *Oxyphyllum* type, 3 μ m thick, nexine thickened at level of endoaperture; pollen (SEM) surface imperforate, microechinate, with rugulate aspect; colpi entirely covered with scabrate membrane.

Distribution and habitat. *Leucheria graui* is known only from the type location in rocky places around the Laguna del Maule in central Chile, at about 2300 m in elevation.

IUCN Red List category. This species is only known by a single collection (the type specimens). The plant is very scarce and grows exclusively in the volcanic rock crevices around Laguna del Maule in Chile (Jörke Grau, pers. comm.); therefore, according to the IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN, 2001), *Leucheria graui* should be included in the category Vulnerable (VU).

Table 1. Characters that distinguish *Leucheria graui* from *L. apiifolia*.

	<i>L. graui</i>	<i>L. apiifolia</i>
Leaf segments	narrowly oblong, narrowly oblanceolate, or oblanceolate	widely oblong
No. of florets	50 to 60	ca. 36
Corolla color	yellow	white
Cypselar trichomes	basic and crenate twin hairs, rarely glandular hairs	basic twin hairs and glandular hairs
Pappus		
Bristles	filiform-paleaceous, 0.05–0.10 mm wide, straight	filiform, ca. 0.05 mm wide, twisted at the apex
Cilia of bristles	long (0.30–0.50 mm)	short ([0.20–0.25]–[0.30] mm)

Etymology. *Leucheria graui* is named in honor of the German botanist Jürke Grau (b. 1937), an expert on the flora of Chile and collector of the type.

Discussion. *Leucheria graui* can be distinguished by its glutinous appearance, sweet scent, and yellow florets. Anatomically, it can be also distinguished from the other species of *Leucheria* by the presence of crenate twin hairs in the cypselae (Freire & Katinas, 1995); these are characterized by their four hair cells that are cylindrical and united by their longitudinal walls (Fig. 11). This type of hair can be also found in *Acourtia* D. Don, another member of the subtribe Nassauviinae (Freire & Katinas, 1995).

The closest species to *Leucheria graui* is *L. apiifolia*, endemic to Curicó, Región VII, in Chile; they resemble each other in their caulescent habit, corymbose capitulescence, and glandular pubescence. The species differ in characters of leaves, florets, cypselae, and pappus (Table 1). *Leucheria graui* is also close to *L. salina* (Rémy) Hieronymus, which inhabits northwestern and western Argentina and central Chile. *Leucheria graui* differs by the stems sparsely foliose at the base, larger involucre (10–11 × 16–30 mm), and yellow corollas. The pollen exine type, shape and size of the pollen grains, and aperture features of *L. graui* are very similar to those of the other species of *Leucheria*.

Crisci (1976) distinguished nine evolutionary lines within *Leucheria*. The new species belongs to the *L. glacialis* (Poeppig ex Lessing) Reiche line, constituted by *L. apiifolia*, *L. congesta* D. Don, *L. glacialis*, *L. landbeckii* (Philippi) Reiche, *L. paniculata* Poeppig ex Lessing, and *L. runcinata* D. Don. This line consists of caulescent plants, generally with numerous capitula (three to 20). According to Crisci (1976), the *L. glacialis* line is relatively primitive and probably evolved from the *L. thermarum* (Philippi) Philippi evolutionary line (*L. coerulescens* J. Rémy, *L. magna* Philippi, and *L. thermarum*) from *Nothofagus* Blume

(southern beech) forests. The members of the *L. glacialis* line inhabit dry areas north of the *Nothofagus* forests, above 2000 m in Chile and Argentina.

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