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## Synopsis of *Acalypha* (Euphorbiaceae) of the West Indies (Caribbean Region), with a focus on endemic species

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### Abstract

This contribution provides a critical synopsis of *Acalypha* species in the West Indies, with a focus on the region's endemic species. It includes a comprehensive nomenclatural revision, primarily based on the study of type specimens. In total, 107 names associated with West Indian *Acalypha* are compiled, recognising 36 native species, 28 of which are endemic, including the nearly endemic *A. chamaedrifolia*. Additionally, five species are identified as introduced, while four are considered dubious and excluded. Lectotypes are designated for 41 names, and four names are proposed as new synonyms. We also present the first identification key for *Acalypha* at a regional scale, provide updated country-level distribution data for each species, and offer a comprehensive index of all published names, cross-referenced with the currently accepted names.

**Key words:** biodiversity, endemism, identification key, nomenclatural review, taxonomy, typification

### Introduction

*Acalypha* Linnaeus (1753: 1003) (Euphorbiaceae: Acalyphoideae) encompassing nearly 500 species, is one of the largest genera of flowering plants and ranks as the third most diverse within the Euphorbiaceae family. A recent revision of infra-generic relationships in *Acalypha* proposed four subgenera: *Acalypha* subg. *Acalypha*, subg. *Androcephala* Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 21), subg. *Hypandrae* (Müller Argoviensis 1865: 9) Hurusawa (1954: 297), and subg. *Linostachys* (Klotzsch ex Schlechtendal 1846: 235) Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 13). (Levin *et al.* 2022).

We are currently conducting a global-scale study of *Acalypha* species to clarify their origin and evolution, with the aim of producing a comprehensive systematic review and establishing a robust taxonomic framework for future research (Cardiel *et al.* 2025b). Our previous research has primarily focused on South America (e.g., Cardiel 1999, 2015, Cardiel & Muñoz-Rodríguez 2012, 2015. Cardiel *et al.* 2013a, 2013b, 2022, 2023) and, more recently, Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Region (Cardiel & Montero-Muñoz 2018, Montero-Muñoz *et al.* 2018, 2023, Cardiel *et al.* 2025b). One of our main goals is to produce a taxonomic monograph of *Acalypha*, necessary to organise, critically assess, and update centuries of accumulated literature (Muñoz-Rodríguez *et al.* 2024).

The West Indies comprise three main archipelagos: The Bahamas Archipelago (including the Bahamas Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands), the Greater Antilles, and the Lesser Antilles (Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong 2012).

In this work, we also include Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao, and other small islands of the north-eastern Venezuelan coast. This area, taken as a whole, corresponds to the Caribbean Region according to the Taxonomic Databases Working Group (TDWG) standards (Brummitt 2001).

The West Indies' intricate geological past has significantly influenced its biodiversity. The Greater Antilles consist of ancient fragments of continental crust; the Lesser Antilles are a more recent volcanic island arc; and the low-lying Bahama Islands are scattered on a shallow oceanic platform. This complex geological history, combined with the islands' varying degrees of isolation and environmental diversity, has fostered high levels of species diversification and endemism (Ricklefs & Bermingham 2007, Rodriguez-Silva & Schlupp 2021).

The Caribbean Region is recognized as one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots, boasting high levels of diversity and endemism (Smith *et al.* 2004). Such richness results from its varied geological history, diverse environments, influence from nearby continental areas, and the differing degrees of isolation among islands (Mittermeier *et al.* 2004, Francisco-Ortega *et al.* 2007).

Since the emergence of the first volcanic archipelagos in the Caribbean region—approximately 145 Mya, at the Jurassic–Cretaceous transition—, volcanic islands, shallow banks, and submarine ridges have intermittently shaped the paleogeography of the area (Iturralde-Vinent 2005). However, these landforms were generally ephemeral, persisting for only a few million years. It was not until the Middle Eocene, less than 40 million years ago, that more permanent landmasses became established, providing stable substrates necessary for the origin and diversification of the region's extant terrestrial biota (Iturralde-Vinent 2005).

In addition, human activities over the past 6,000 years have profoundly impacted the region's ecosystems, with habitat alteration, hunting, and the introduction of non-native species leading to significant ecological changes and numerous species extinctions (Fitzpatrick & Keegan 2007).

Despite its ecological significance, our understanding of the flora of the West Indies remains incomplete. The most recent comprehensive study, a catalogue of seed plants by Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012), lists 12,280 taxa (including species and subspecies) with an endemism rate of 72%, but many of them have not been studied in depth.

### *Acalypha* in the West Indies

Regarding *Acalypha*, the catalogue by Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012) lists 42 species, 27 of them endemic. Other floristic treatments or checklists including *Acalypha* have been published for the Bahamas Archipelago (Correll & Correll 1982), Barbados (Gooding *et al.* 1965), the Cayman Islands (Proctor 1984), Cuba (Alain 1953; Berazaín *et al.* 2005, 2008, Almirall, 2013, 2016, González-Torres *et al.* 2016, Greuter & Rankin 2016, Gutiérrez *et al.* 2024), Hispaniola (including Haiti and the Dominican Republic) (Urban 1920, 1922, 1926, Barker & Dardeau 1930, Moscoso 1943, Liogier 1986), Jamaica (Fawcett & Rendle 1920, Adams *et al.* 1972, Kelly 1988), the Lesser Antilles (Howard 1989, Carrington *et al.* 2017, 2018), Puerto Rico (Urban 1905, Britton & Wilson 1924, Liogier & Martorell 2000), and Trinidad and Tobago (Baksh-Comeau *et al.* 2016), but no taxonomic studies have focused on the *Acalypha* species in the region.

In this paper, we present a comprehensive synopsis of *Acalypha* from the West Indies *sensu lato*, corresponding to the Caribbean Region as defined by Brummitt (2001), with a focus on the region's endemic species. We include an exhaustive nomenclatural review, an updated geographical distribution of each species at the country or island level, an identification key of all species in the region, and a comprehensive index of all published names cross-referenced with the currently accepted ones. Our objective is to establish the foundation for a comprehensive systematic and biogeographic review of the genus in this region, which is crucial for understanding its origin and diversification across the American continent.

## Materials and methods

This work is based on an exhaustive bibliographic review and a search for type specimens. We reviewed specimens from the following herbaria: B, BM, BR, C, G, G-DC, GOET, H, HAC, HAJB, HBG, K, L, LD, M, MA, MO, MPU, NY, P, S, SBT, U, UCWI, US, W, WAG, and YU (acronyms according to Thiers 2025, continuously updated). We accessed physical specimens—on-site or through loans—or high-resolution images via JSTOR Global Plants (<http://plants.jstor.org/>) and other online repositories and virtual herbaria. In addition, we consulted all previously mentioned national and regional floristic studies and checklists.

We arrange accepted endemic species alphabetically, listing all known synonyms for each of them. We propose new synonyms (*syn. nov.*) after thoroughly reviewing the original descriptions and type material. We provide type information as comprehensive as possible for all valid names, examining all referenced specimens except those indicated as “not found”. We cite barcode herbarium numbers or specimen sheet numbers when available. If the original description does not designate a holotype, we designate a lectotype following the rules of the *International Code of Nomenclature* (Turland *et al.* 2025) and the recommendations of McNeill (2014).

When the original authors cited two or more syntypes in the protologue, we designate the best-preserved specimen or the one best aligned with the protologue’s description as the lectotype. We list the remaining syntypes as “former syntypes” for completion. If the original authors did not designate a holotype but a single specimen exists and (a) it is housed in the institution where the author is known to have worked or deposited their main collections, or (b) it bears a label clearly annotated in the author’s handwriting, we follow McNeill’s (2014) recommendation and designate the specimen as “lectotype, designated here (or perhaps holotype)”. When a lectotype designation does not fit these general cases, we justify it in the “Notes” section for each species.

Typification of specimens collected by Charles Wright in Cuba presents several challenges and merits a detailed explanation. Wright undertook three expeditions to Cuba between 1856 and 1867, and his collections were subsequently distributed across numerous herbaria. However, significant irregularities exist in his specimen numbering (Howard 1988). Notably, the numbers associated with Wright’s specimens do not always represent original collection numbers, as these were often assigned at a later stage by Asa Gray at Harvard. Gray sometimes applied identical numbers to specimens gathered by Wright at different locations and on different dates, occasionally corresponding to different species (Howard 1988).

We gathered information on the type locality primarily from the original descriptions and type specimen labels. When relevant, we include additional details such as the current country name or a modern spelling of a place. If the locality is ambiguous or imprecise, we cite the original information as it appears in the protologue, in quotes. When the location or collection date are not provided, we indicate them as s.l. (*sine loco*) or s.d. (*sine diē*), respectively.

As a rule, we cite the distribution of each species at the country or island level, grouping them within the main archipelagos of the region (Bahamas, Greater Antilles and Lesser Antilles). We include Trinidad and Tobago and other islands off the Venezuelan coast in the Lesser Antilles. We base geographical information on bibliographic data and the herbarium specimens we have studied. Finally, we provide all references where each species or one of its synonyms is cited in chronological order.

We present non-endemic species on a separate section, with more concise information, as most have been reviewed in previous works. For these non-endemic species, we include only synonyms based on West Indies specimens. Finally, we list the introduced or naturalized species, as well as those considered doubtful or excluded, indicating the reasons for each case.

#### Data resources

All information associated with this work, including detailed information on the specimens we studied, is available online through the regularly updated *Acalypha Taxonomic Information System* website (Cardiel *et al.* 2025a). This website provides comprehensive taxonomic and nomenclatural information on the genus, access to data on approximately 40,000 *Acalypha* specimens worldwide, as well as information on phylogeny, conservation, medicinal uses, etc. of all *Acalypha* species. Additionally, the specimens studied are also accessible through the Global Biodiversity Information Facility portal (GBIF), <https://doi.org/10.15468/yhsqkx> (Cardiel 2020).

## Results

### Key to the species of *Acalypha* of the West Indies (Caribbean Region)

1. Female flowers pedicellate or rarely subsessile, calyx with 4–5 sepals; bracts of female inflorescences not enlarging in fruit ..... Subgenus *Linostachys*
- Female flowers sessile, calyx with 3 sepals; bracts of female inflorescences enlarging in fruit except in *Acalypha hispida* (we include *Acalypha hutchinsonii* whose female flowers are unknown) ..... Subgenus *Acalypha*

#### Subgenus *Linostachys*

1. Leaf blades with minute, lustrous resinaceous droplets, mainly on the lower surface; female inflorescences racemose or paniculate ..... *Acalypha villosa*
- Leaf blades without resinaceous droplets; female inflorescences spicate or racemose, rarely paniculate ..... 2.

2. Leaf blades broadly ovate, 15–20 cm long, base deeply cordate; stipules broadly lanceolate; female inflorescences spicate ..... *Acalypha elizabethae*  
 - Leaf blades elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, 8–12 cm long, base rounded; stipules setaceous; female inflorescences racemose or rarely paniculate ..... *Acalypha leptorhachis*

**Subgenus *Acalypha***

1. Herbs or suffrutices ..... 2  
 - Trees or shrubs ..... 16  
 2. Herbs (sometimes slightly suffruticose) up to 30 cm tall (usually less than 10 cm tall); leaf blades ovate to orbicular ..... 3  
 - Herbs or suffrutices more than 30 cm tall; leaf blades ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate ..... 10  
 3. Creeping herbs rooting at the nodes ..... 4  
 - Erect, pendant or creeping herbs not rooting at the nodes ..... 5  
 4. Leaf blades ovate, margin with 8–12 lobes ..... *Acalypha fissa*  
 - Leaf blades ovate, orbicular or suborbicular, margin with (15–)20 lobes ..... *Acalypha glechomifolia*  
 5. Upper leaf blades up to 1.5 cm long, ovate to suborbicular; inflorescences male and/or androgynous ..... 6  
 - Upper leaf blades up to 3.5(–4) cm long, ovate-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate; inflorescences all androgynous ..... 8  
 6. Probably dioecious (only male spikes known); leaf blades (0.5–)1–1.5 cm long, lower surface velutinous ..... *Acalypha hutchinsonii*  
 - Monoecious; leaf blades 0.2–0.7 cm long, lower surface sparsely pubescent ..... 7  
 7. Leaf blades elliptic to suborbicular, apex rounded, margin crenate, thickened ..... *Acalypha nana*  
 - Leaf blades ovate, apex subacute to acute, margin serrate, not thickened ..... *Acalypha pygmaea*  
 8. Leaf-blade base cordate to subcordate; inflorescences axillary; developed bracts of female inflorescences with triangular teeth .... *Acalypha mogotensis*  
 - Leaf-blade base truncate to rounded; inflorescences terminal; developed bracts of female inflorescences with linear-lanceolate teeth ..... 9  
 9. Lower leaf surface laxly pubescent ..... *Acalypha chamaedrifolia*  
 - Lower leaf surface densely pubescent to velutinous ..... *Acalypha pendula*  
 10. Female inflorescences densely flowered, axis not visible between the bracts ..... 11  
 - Female inflorescences loosely flowered, axis conspicuously visible between the bracts ..... 14  
 11. Bracts of female inflorescences with long awned teeth ..... 12  
 - Bracts of female inflorescences with triangular awnless teeth ..... 13  
 12. Young branches and leaves with only simple trichomes; leaf blades acute at apex; female inflorescences axillary; styles branched ..... *Acalypha arvensis*  
 - Young branches and leaves with simple and glandular trichomes; leaf blades acuminate at apex; female inflorescences axillary and terminal; styles unbranched ..... *Acalypha alopecuroidea*  
 13. Leaf blades deeply cordate at the base with simple and glandular trichomes ..... *Acalypha havanensis*  
 - Leaf blades slightly cordate at the base with only trichomes ..... *Acalypha poiretii*  
 14. Developed bracts of female inflorescences with glandular trichomes; capsule tuberculate ..... *Acalypha ostryifolia*  
 - Developed bracts of female inflorescences with simple trichomes; capsule smooth ..... 15  
 15. Developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin crenate-denticulate ..... *Acalypha indica* (introduced species)  
 - Developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin deeply parted ..... *Acalypha setosa*  
 16. All inflorescences unisexual, axillary or terminal ..... 17  
 - Inflorescences androgynous and sometimes also unisexual male inflorescences, all axillary (except in *Acalypha portoricensis*) ..... 36  
 17. Female inflorescences axillary (sometimes also subterminal in *Acalypha tomentosa*) ..... 18  
 - Female inflorescences terminal ..... 31  
 18. Leaf blades 3–5 cm long; petioles up to 1(–1.5) cm long ..... 19  
 - Leaf blades more than 10 cm long; petioles more than 2 cm long ..... 20  
 19. Leaf blades narrowly ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, apex acute, margin serrate; female inflorescences axillary and subterminal, laxly flowered ..... *Acalypha tomentosa* in part  
 - Leaf blades broadly elliptic to elliptic-lanceolate, apex obtuse to subacute, margin crenate or crenate-dentate; female inflorescences all axillary, densely flowered ..... *Acalypha scabrosa*  
 20. Leaf blades obovate-lanceolate ..... *Acalypha grisebachiana*  
 - Leaf blades ovate, elliptic or oblong-lanceolate ..... 21  
 21. Female inflorescences densely flowered, with the axis hidden; bracts not enlarging in fruit; male inflorescences unknown (cultivated plants) ..... *Acalypha hispida* (introduced)  
 - Female inflorescences more or less densely flowered, with the axis visible; bracts enlarging in fruit; male inflorescences present ..... 22  
 22. Leaf blades broadly ovate-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, (3.5–)5–15(–19) cm wide; petioles up to 8(–20) cm long ..... 23  
 - Leaf blades narrowly elliptic-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, 2–4(–5) cm wide; petioles up to 3(–5) cm long ..... 27  
 23. Leaf blades 10–12(–15) × 3.5–5(–6.5) cm; developed bracts of female inflorescences up to 3–4.5 mm long ..... 24  
 - Leaf blades 14–20(–27) × 8–15(–19) cm; developed bracts of female inflorescences up to 10 mm long ..... 25  
 24. Leaf blades elliptic to oblong-lanceolate, 10–15 × 4–6.5 cm; female inflorescences with filiform axis, sparsely flowered (3–10 mm spacing between bracts); developed bracts of female inflorescences up to 3 mm long ..... *Acalypha rupestris*  
 - Leaf blades ovate to elliptic-lanceolate, 8–12 × 3.5–5 cm; female inflorescences with axis not filiform, more or less densely flowered (2–5 mm spacing between bracts); developed bracts of female inflorescences up to 4.5 mm long .... *Acalypha elliptica*  
 25. Leaf blades generally variegated, reddish; female inflorescences up to 10 cm long (cultivated plants) .....

	..... <i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i> (introduced)	
-	Leaf blades not variegated, greenish; female inflorescences more than 15 cm long .....	26
26.	Stipules broadly oblong-lanceolate, 5–15 (–30) mm long, with long awn up to 15 mm long; leaf blades 10–20 (–27) × 5–15 (–19) cm .....	<i>Acalypha macrostachya</i> (introduced)
-	Stipules triangular-lanceolate, 6–7 mm long, awnless; leaf blades 14–19 × 8–11.5 cm .....	<i>Acalypha maestrensis</i>
27.	Developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin divided to at least ½ of the bract length into acute to rounded teeth .....	28
-	Developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin divided up to less than ½ of the bract length into acute to obtuse teeth .....	29
28.	Stipules linear-lanceolate up to 1 mm wide at the base; developed bracts of female inflorescences with teeth narrowly lanceolate, acute at the tip .....	<i>Acalypha laevigata</i>
-	Stipules triangular-lanceolate up to 4 mm wide at the base; developed bracts of female inflorescences with teeth elliptic, rounded at the tip .....	<i>Acalypha pruinosa</i>
29.	Leaf margin strongly serrate; developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin divided up to 1/3 of the bract length into obtuse teeth .....	<i>Acalypha leicesterfieldiensis</i>
-	Leaf margin crenate-serrulate; developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin divided less than 1/4 of the bract length into acute teeth .....	30
30.	Leaf blades elliptic-lanceolate, base obtuse to subcordate .....	<i>Acalypha virgata</i>
-	Leaf blades narrowly elliptic to oblong-lanceolate, base cuneate to subcuneate .....	<i>Acalypha distans</i>
31.	Bracts of female inflorescences lanceolate, margin entire .....	<i>Acalypha pycnantha</i>
-	Bracts of female inflorescences ovoid to ellipsoid, margin dentate or partite .....	32
32.	Leaf blades (0.5–)1–4 cm wide, sessile or with petioles (0.5–)1–2(–3) cm long .....	33
-	Leaf blades more than 5 cm wide; petioles (1–)4–11 cm long .....	34
33.	Leaf blades ovate to elliptic-lanceolate; developed bracts of female inflorescences with glandular trichomes .....	<i>Acalypha cubensis</i>
-	Leaf blades obovate to oblong-lanceolate; developed bracts of female inflorescences with only simple trichomes .....	<i>Acalypha membranacea</i>
34.	Leaf blades narrowly linear-lanceolate, (0.5–)1–1.5 cm wide; developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin divided more than ½ of the bract length .....	<i>Acalypha angustifolia</i>
-	Leaf blades ovate-lanceolate to elliptic-lanceolate, 1.5–5 cm wide; developed bracts of female inflorescences with margin divided more less than ½ of the bract length .....	35
35.	Leaves subsessile or with petioles up to 1 cm long; leaf blades 3–4 cm long .....	<i>Acalypha tomentosa</i> in part
-	Leaves with petioles 1–3(–5) cm long; leaf blades up to 10–12 cm long .....	<i>Acalypha portoricensis</i> in part
36.	Leaf blades elliptic-lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, usually more than 5 cm wide, base rounded to cordate .....	37
-	Leaf blades broadly elliptic-lanceolate to oblong-lanceolate, 1.5–3 (–4) cm wide, base rounded .....	38
37.	Leaf blades elliptic to oblong-lanceolate, base rounded; petioles up to 10 cm long .....	<i>Acalypha bisetosa</i>
-	Leaf blades ovate-lanceolate, base cordate; petioles up to 5 cm long .....	<i>Acalypha cuspidata</i>
38.	Leaf blades 3–4.5 cm long .....	<i>Acalypha berteroa</i>
-	Leaf blades 9–17(–25) cm long .....	39
39.	Leaf blades up to 16(–25) cm long; inflorescences all axillary; bracts of female inflorescences with margin entire or denticulate ..	<i>Acalypha diversifolia</i> (introduced)
-	Leaf blades up to 10(–12) cm long; female inflorescences terminal; bracts of female inflorescences with margin deeply dentate ..	<i>Acalypha portoricensis</i> in part

## Checklist of *Acalypha* of the West Indies (Caribbean Region)

### ENDEMIC SPECIES (including *Acalypha chamaedrifolia*)

**1. *Acalypha angustifolia*** Swartz (1788: 99) ≡ *Acalypha angustifolia* var. *genuina* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 22), *nom. inval.* ≡ *Ricinocarpus angustifolius* (Sw.) Kuntze (1891: 617). Lectotype (designated here):—HISPANIOLA. s.l., s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (S barcode S-R-18; isolectotypes: G-DC barcodes G00324322, G00324323, S barcode S-R-19).

= *Acalypha angustifolia* var. *glabrata* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 22). Lectotype (designated here):—HISPANIOLA. s.l., s.d., *P.A. Poiteau s.n.* (G-DC barcode G00324321).

= *Acalypha arcuata* Urban (1922: 188). Lectotype (designated here):—HAITI. Artibonite department, Froide river, Planchet, 500 m, June 1920, *W. Buch 1937* (GH barcode GH00045424).

= *Acalypha platyodonta* Urban (1921: 38), *syn. nov.* Lectotype (designated here):—HAITI. Sud department, commune de Port-à-Piment, near Grande Rivière, 2 August 1917, *E.L. Ekman 445* (S barcode S-R-7741).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti).

**References:**—Swartz (1800: 1172, 1174), Müller Argoviensis (1865: 22, 1866: 836, 837), Urban (1919: 409, 1920: 360, 1922: 38), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 60, 61, 62), Baker & Dardeau (1930: 184), Moscoso (1943: 300, 301), Anonymous (1978: 188), Liogier (1986: 65, 69), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316, 317).

**Notes:**—1. There is considerable confusion in the identification of herbarium specimens of this species, often mixed with specimens of *Acalypha tomentosa*, considered as a synonym by previous authors. See the note under *A. tomentosa* for further details.

2. *Acalypha angustifolia* var. *glabrata* Müll.Arg. was described based on two collections from Hispaniola, one of them (*C. Ehrenberg s.n.*) was stored in the Berlin herbarium and was probably destroyed in the 1943 fire. We designate the other collection (*P.A. Poiteau s.n.*), found in the G herbarium, as the lectotype.

3. *Acalypha platyodonta* has until now been considered a synonym of *A. tomentosa*. After a careful revision of the type specimens, we consider that it must be treated as a synonym of *A. angustifolia*.

**2. *Acalypha berteriana*** Müller Argoviensis (1865: 33) ≡ *Ricinocarpus berterianus* (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze (1891: 617). Lectotype (designated here) or perhaps holotype:—PUERTO RICO. s.l., 1820, *C.L.G. Bertero s.n.* (G-DC barcode G00324466).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Puerto Rico.

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1866: 862), Urban (1905: 347), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 125), Britton & Wilson (1924: 491), Liogier (1988: 346), Liogier & Martorell (2000: 98), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316).

**3. *Acalypha bisetosa*** Bertero ex Spreng (1826: 879) ≡ *Ricinocarpus bisetosus* (Bertero ex Spreng.) Kuntze (1891: 617). Lectotype (designated here):—PUERTO RICO. s.l., 1820, *C.L.G. Bertero s.n.* (G-DC barcode G00324087; isolectotypes: H barcode H1372738, MPU barcode MPU015018).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Puerto Rico.

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1865: 7, 1866: 801), Urban (1905: 346), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 123), Britton & Wilson (1924: 491), Liogier (1988: 346), Liogier & Martorell (2000: 98), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316), Muñoz-Rodríguez *et al.* (2014: 210).

**Notes:**—Müller Argoviensis (1866) mistakenly synonymised *Linostachys urticifolia* Klotzsch ex Schldl. under *Acalypha bisetosa*, leading to occasional confusion between the two names. *Linostachys urticifolia* is a synonym of *A. muelleriana*, which is found only in Central America, Colombia, and Venezuela, and belongs to the subgenus *Linostachys* (Muñoz-Rodríguez *et al.* 2014, Cardiel *et al.* 2022).

**4. *Acalypha chamaedrifolia*** (Lam.) Müller Argoviensis (1866: 879) ≡ *Croton chamaedrifolius* Lamarck (1786: 215) ≡ *Cupamenis chamaedrifolia*. (Lam.) Rafinesque (1838: 67, as ‘*chamedrifolia*’) ≡ *Ricinocarpus chamaedrifolius* (Lam.) Kuntze (1891: 617). Lectotype (designated by Howard 1989: 7):—Tab. 82, fig. 3 in Sloane (1707: 125). Epitype (designated here):—JAMAICA. s.l., s.d., *H. Sloane s.n.* (BM barcode BM000588910).

= *Acalypha reptans* Swartz (1788: 99) ≡ *Acalypha reptans* var. *genuina* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 48), *nom. inval.* Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (S barcode S-R-26; isolectotypes: B barcode B-W 17810-01 0, LD barcode LD1265865, M barcode M0239428, S barcode S10-42469, STB barcodes SBT12249, SBT12250).

= *Acalypha corchorifolia* Willdenow (1805: 524). Lectotype (designated here):—MARTINIQUE. s.d., *Herb. Willdenow s.n.* (B barcode B-W 17818-00 0; isolectotype: B barcode B-W 17818-01 0).

= *Acalypha adscendens* Hornemann (1819: 108). Type:—“Hab. in Antillis”, s.d. probably from specimens cultivated in the Copenhagen Botanical Garden (not found.).

= *Acalypha reptans* var. *brevipes* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 48) ≡ *Acalypha chamaedrifolia* var. *brevipes* (Müll.Arg.) Müller Argoviensis (1866: 879).—Lectotype (designated here):—GUADELOUPE, s.d., *C.L.G. Bertero s.n.* (G-DC barcode G00324621. Former syntype:—HAITI. s.d., *C.A. Ehrenberg 91* (M barcode M0239427).

= *Acalypha hispaniolae* Urban (1919: 410). Lectotype (designated here):—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Santo Domingo, near Constanza, 300 m, April 1910, *H. von Türckheim 3145* (G barcode GH00045427; isolectotypes HBG barcode HBG516657, M barcode M0239445, NY barcode NY00074542).

= *Acalypha hotteana* Urban (1926: 59). Lectotype (designated here):—HAITI. Massif de la Hotte, eastern group, Grand-Goave, road Carrefour Fauché to Troiun, gorge of Riviere Courte-Oreille, April, *E.L. Ekman H 5863* (S barcode S-R-7755).

**Distribution:**—Bahamas. Greater Antilles: Cuba, Cayman Island, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti), Jamaica, and Puerto Rico. Lesser Antilles: Antigua, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Saba, Saint Barthelemy, Saint Martin, Virgin Islands (Guana Island, Saint Croix, Saint Thomas, Tortola). Has been also cited as native in South Florida (United States) by Levin (2016).

**References:**—Urban (1905: 346), Prain & Hutchinson (1913: 26), Urban (1920: 361), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 29), Barker & Dardeau (1930: 456), Britton & Wilson (1924: 490), Alain (1953: 99), Adams *et al.* (1972: 423), Correll & Correll (1982: 773), Liogier & Martorell (1982: 346), Proctor (1984: 544), Liogier (1986: 346), Liogier & Martorell (1982: 98), Howard (1989:7), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 463).

**Notes:**—*Acalypha chamaedrifolia* was originally published as *Croton chamaedrifolius* by Lamarck (1786). He referenced several pre-Linnean polynomial and plates, one of them an illustration by Everard Kickius, published by Hans Sloane (Sloane 1707: 125, tab. 82, fig 3). Howard (1989: 7) designated this illustration as the lectotype of *A. chamaedrifolia*. However, this illustration lacks sufficient details to recognize the species. We have found the indubitable model of this plate in the BM herbarium (*H. Sloane s.n.*). Therefore, according to article 9.9 of the *International Code of Nomenclature—Madrid Code*—(Turland *et al.* 2025), we propose this specimen as epitype of *A. chamaedrifolia*.

**5. *Acalypha cubensis*** Urban (1930: 225). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. Habana province, Loma Esperón, 04 April 1914, *E.L. Ekman 655* (S barcode S-R-7768; isolectotype: S barcode S07-12615). Former syntype:—CUBA. s.l., s.d., *N.L. Britton, E.G. Britton & C.S. Gager 7406* (NY barcode NY01383437).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Alain (1953: 98), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316), Almirall (2016), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 463).

**6. *Acalypha distans*** Müller Argoviensis (1866: 820) ≡ *Ricinocarpus distans* (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze (1891: 617). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. s.l., 1860–1864, *C. Wright 1982* (G-DC barcode G00324010; probable isolectotypes: G barcode G00383622, GH barcode GH00045425, MA barcode MA-01-00608654, MO barcode MO-251929, NY barcode NY00074541, P barcode P00635246, S barcodes S07-12614 and S-R-7750, US barcode US00096322, YU barcode YU244659).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 165), Alain (1953: 97), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316), Almirall (2016), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 463).

**7. *Acalypha elizabethae*** Howard (1986: 1). Type:—SAINT LUCIA. Gros Piton, Soufrière, 3 May 1950, *R.A. Howard 11492* (holotype A barcode A00045426).

**Distribution:**—Lesser Antilles: Saint Lucia.

**References:**—Correll & Correll (1982: 000), Howard (1989: 8), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316). Muñoz-Rodríguez *et al.* (2014: 207), Carrington *et al.* 2017: 123; 2018: 44).

**Notes:**—*Acalypha elizabethae* has been assessed as Critically Endangered (CR) by Carrington *et al.* (2017).

**8. *Acalypha elliptica*** Swartz (1788: 99) ≡ *Ricinocarpus ellipticus* (Sw.) Kuntze (1891: 617). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. s.l., s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (S barcode S-R-22; isolectotypes: G barcodes G00383692 and G00383693, G-DC barcode G00324034, LD barcode LD1264605, M barcode M0239436, S barcodes S10-41954 and S-R-21).

= *Acalypha hernandiifolia* Swartz (1788: 99) ≡ *Acalypha hernandiifolia* var. *genuina* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 11), *nom. inval.* ≡ *Ricinocarpus hernandiifolius* (Sw.) Kuntze (1891: 616). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. s.l., s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (S barcode S10-41970; isolectotypes: G-DC barcode G00324052, S barcodes S10-41969, S10-41971, S-R-23 and S-R-24, SBT barcode SBT12252).

= *Acalypha hernandiifolia* var. *pubescens* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 11). Type:—JAMAICA. s.l., 1807, *F.R. de Tussac s.n.* (holotype G-DC barcode G00324053).

= *Acalypha alexandri* Urban (1908: 387). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. Ocho Ríos, January 1850, *R.C. Alexander s.n.* (NY barcode NY00074538; isolectotypes: GH barcode GH00045423, NY barcode NY00074539).

= *Acalypha pallescens* Urban (1930: 224), *syn. nov.* Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. Manchester, between Mandeville and Brown's Town, 3–7 September 1908, *N.L. Britton 3260* (NY barcode NY01383492).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Jamaica.

**References:**—Swartz (1800: 1162, 1168), Grisebach (1859: 47), Müller Argoviensis (1865: 11, 13, 1866: 808, 812), Fawcett & Rendle (1920: 302), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 148, 149), Adams *et al.* (1972: 423), Howard (1989: 5), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316).

**Notes:**—*Acalypha pallescens* has until now been considered an accepted species. However, after careful examination of the type material and additional collections, we consider it a synonym of *A. elliptica*.

**9. *Acalypha fissa*** (Müll.Arg.) Hutchinson (1913: 27) ≡ *Acalypha chamaedrifolia* var. *fissa* Müller Argoviensis (1866: 879). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. s.l., 1860–1864, *C. Wright 1983* (G-DC barcode G00324871; probable isoelectotypes: HAC s.n., K barcode K000600569, MA barcode MA-01-00608653, MO barcode MO-251928, NY barcode NY00074540, P barcode P04838384).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 31), Alain (1953: 99), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 464).

**10. *Acalypha glechomifolia*** A.Rich. in Sagra (1850: 205) ≡ *Acalypha reptans* var. *glechomifolia* (A.Rich.) Müller Argoviensis (1865: 48) ≡ *Acalypha chamaedrifolia* var. *glechomifolia* (A.Rich.) Müller Argoviensis (1866: 879). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. s.l., s.d., R. de la Sagra s.n. (P barcode P00635259; isoelectotypes: K barcodes K000600567, K000600568, P barcode P00635260).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba and Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti).

**References:**—Prain & Hutchinson (1913: 27), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 32), Moscoso (1943: 301), Alain (1953: 99), Liogier (1986: 67), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 464).

**11. *Acalypha grisebachiana*** (Kuntze) Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 148) ≡ *Ricinocarpus grisebachianus* Kuntze (1891: 616). Lectotype (designated here):—TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. Trinidad, San Fernando, 15 April 1874, *C.E.O. Kuntze 937* (NY barcode NY00273205; isoelectotype: US barcode US00131219). Former syntypes:—TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. Loc. cit., April 1874, *C.E.O. Kuntze 237* (K barcode K000600559); Trinidad, mountains of Maraval, January 1848, *W. Purdie 61* (K barcode K000600560).

= *A. macrostachya* Griseb. in Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 148), *nom. nud.*

**Distribution:**—Lesser Antilles: Trinidad and Tobago (Trinidad).

**References:**—Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 148), Hosein *et al.* (2016: 7313), Baksh-Comeau *et al.* (2016: 192).

**12. *Acalypha hutchinsonii*** Britton (1920: 77). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. coast of southern Santa Clara, San Juan river, 24–25 March 1910, *N.L. Britton, F.S. Earle & P. Wilson 5907* (NY barcode NY00074543; isoelectotype: K barcode K000600557).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Alain (1953: 99), Berazaín *et al.* (2005: 54), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), González-Oliva *et al.* (2015: 292), Almirall (2016), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 464).

**Notes:**—1. *Acalypha hutchinsonii* has been assessed as Critically Endangered (CR) by González-Oliva *et al.* (2015).

2. In addition to the type collection, only a single additional specimen of this species has been located (*Hno. Alain 6311*, housed in the HAC herbarium). Both specimens bear exclusively male inflorescences. Based on morphological similarities to other herbaceous species endemic to Cuba—such as *Acalypha nana* or *A. pygmaea*—we tentatively assign this taxon to the subgenus *Acalypha*. In contrast, all known species of subgenus *Linostachys* are woody.

**13. *Acalypha laevigata*** Swartz (1788: 99) ≡ *Ricinocarpus laevigatus* (Sw.) Kuntze (1891: 618). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. s.l., s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (S barcode S10-42385; isoelectotypes: G barcode G00383684, G-DC barcode G00324009, LD barcode LD1265985, S barcodes S10-42380, S10-42381, S10-42382, S10-42383 & S-R-25, SBT barcode SBT12248).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Jamaica.

**References:**—Swartz (1800: 1166), Grisebach (1859: 48), Müller Argoviensis (1865: 15, 1866: 820), Fawcett & Rendle (1920: 301), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 164), Adams *et al.* (1972: 424), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317).

**14. *Acalypha leicesterfieldiensis*** Radcliffe-Smith & Govaerts (1997: 477) ≡ *Acalypha jamaicensis* Britton (1912: 7), *nom. illeg.* non Rafinesque (1836: 46). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. Leicesterfield, in Upper Clarendon District, Middlesex County, 28 January 1910, *W. Harris 10842* (NY barcode NY00074544; isolectotypes: K barcode K000600558, US barcode US00096354).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Jamaica.

**References:**—Fawcett & Rendle (1920: 302), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 164), Adams *et al.* (1972: 424), Kelly 1988: 214), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317).

**Notes.**—The name *Acalypha leicesterfieldiensis* was proposed by Radcliffe-Smith & Govaerts (1997) to replace the illegitimate name *A. jamaicensis* Britton.

**15. *Acalypha leptorhachis*** Müller Argoviensis (1865: 7) ≡ *Ricinocarpus leptorhachis* (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze (1891: 618). Type:—CUBA. La Habana, 1825, *J.A. de la Ossa s.n.* (holotype G-DC barcode G00324088; isotypes: B presumably destroyed, negative F 34634).

= *Acalypha vincentina* Urban (1930: 222). Lectotype (designated by Muñoz-Rodríguez *et al.* 2014: 209):—SAINT VICENT AND THE GRANADINES. Saint Vincent, Montrose Hills, 200–400 m, December 1889, *H.F.A. Eggers 6566* (US barcode US00096422; isolectotypes: A barcode A00045432, P barcodes P00645433, P00645434).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba. Lesser Antilles: Saint Vincent.

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1866: 801), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 19), Urban (1930: 222), Alain (1953: 98), Howard (1989: 10), Correll & Correll (1982: 000), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Muñoz-Rodríguez *et al.* (2014: 209), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Carrington *et al.* (2017: 123 as *A. vincentina*; 2018: 44), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**16. *Acalypha maestrensis*** Urban (1930: 224). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. Oriente province, Sierra Maestra, Yara river, Arroyo del Perú, 15 August 1922, *E.L. Ekman 16408* (S barcode S-R-7762; isolectotype: MA barcode MA01-00512991).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Alain (1953: 98), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Almirall (2016), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**17. *Acalypha membranacea*** A.Rich. in Sagra (1850: 204) ≡ *Ricinocarpus membranaceus* (A.Rich.) Kuntze (1891: 618). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. s.l., s.d., *R. de la Sagra s.n.*, (P barcode P04838430; isolectotypes: P barcodes P04838426, P04838428, P04838429).

= *Acalypha adenophora* Grisebach (1859: 175). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. Matanzas province, near Matanzas, s.d., *F.I.X. Rugel 146* (GOET barcode GOET006450, L barcode L0241931).

= *Acalypha macrosperma* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 18). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. s.l., s.d., *Herb. Pavon s.n.* (G barcode G00383601; isolectotype B presumably destroyed, G-DC barcode G00324345).

= *Acalypha squarrosa* Klotzsch in Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 50), *nom. nud.*

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1865: 34, 1866: 830), Grisebach (1865: 175), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 50), Alain (1953: 98), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**Notes:**—1. Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012) indicate the presence of *Acalypha membranacea* in Mexico and possibly in Colombia; however, we were not able to find any specimen of this species from either country. *Acalypha membranacea* is not mentioned in the recent checklist of Mexican vascular plants by Villaseñor (2016). Müller Argoviensis (1866) and Pax & Hoffman (1924) cited this species from Colombia based on a specimen collected by *Carl F. Eduard Otto s.n.* (P barcode P04839282), probably from Cuba but mislabelled as originating from Colombia (fide Cardiel 1995).

2. See the note on *Acalypha laxiflora* in the Dubious and Excluded species section below.

**18. *Acalypha mogotensis*** Urban (1930: 226). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. Pinar del Rio province, Viñales, Sitio del Infierno, 14 January 1923, *E.L. Ekman 16703* (S barcode S-R-7763; isolectotypes: MA barcode MA-01-00513031, NY barcode NY00074545, S barcode S08-1617).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Alain (1953: 99), Urquiola *et al.* (2010: 154), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Almirall (2016), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134).

**Notes:**—*Acalypha mogotensis* has been assessed as Critically Endangered (CR) by Urquiola *et al.* (2010) and Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**19. *Acalypha nana*** (Griseb. ex Müll.Arg.) Griseb. ex Prain & Hutchinson (1913: 27) ≡ *Acalypha chamaedrifolia* var. *nana* Griseb. ex Müller Argoviensis (1866: 880). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. s.l., 1860–1864, *C. Wright 1984* (G-DC barcode G00324868; isolectotypes: HAC s.n., MA barcode MA-608652, MA-01-00513034, NY barcode NY00074546, S barcode S-R-7765, YU barcode YU-244656).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 58), Alain (1953: 99), Berazaín *et al.* (2005: 54), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Almirall (2013: 139, 2016), González-Oliva *et al.* (2015: 695), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**20. *Acalypha pendula*** C.Wright ex Grisebach (1865: 176) ≡ *Acalypha chamaedrifolia* var. *pendula* (C.Wright ex Griseb.) Müller Argoviensis (1866: 879). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. “Cuba occ.”, s.l., 1860–1864, *C. Wright 1981* (G-DC barcode G00324627; probable isolectotypes: GH barcode GH00045429, HAC s.n., K barcode K000600570, MA barcodes MA-01-00513039 & MA-01-00608691, MO barcode MO-251927, NY barcode NY00074547, P barcode P00645406, S barcodes S08-1615 & S-R-7740).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic, Haiti)

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1866: 879), Prain & Hutchinson (1913: 26), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 31), Alain (1953: 99), Liogier (1986: 68), Urquiola *et al.* 2010: 154; Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Almirall (2016), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**Notes:**—1. *Acalypha pendula* is one of the names frequently misapplied to a cultivar of *Acalypha* characterised by its showy terminal female inflorescences composed of numerous densely clustered, ebracteate, female flowers. Steinmann & Levin (2011) hypothesised that this cultivar is the result of a homeotic mutation of *A. herzogiana* Pax & K.Hoffm., in which stamens were replaced by styles.

2. The Catalogue of Seed Plants of the West Indies does not mention *Acalypha pendula* (Acevedo & Strong 2012).

3. *Acalypha pendula* has been assessed as Endangered (EN) by Urquiola *et al.* (2010).

**21. *Acalypha portoricensis*** Müller Argoviensis (1865: 22) ≡ *Ricinocarpus portoricensis* (Müll. Arg.) Kuntze (1891: 618). Lectotype (designated here):—PUERTO RICO. s.l., 1820, *C.L.G. Bertero s.n.* (G-DC barcode G00324328).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Puerto Rico. Lesser Antilles: Virgin Islands (Saint Croix).

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1866: 836), Urban (1905: 346), Britton & Wilson (1924: 491), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 64), Liogier (1988: 348), Liogier & Martorell (2000: 98), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317).

**22. *Acalypha pruinosa*** Urban (1908: 388). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. Manchester Parish, Troy, 660 m, 30 June 1904, *W.H. Harris 8738* (NY barcode NY00074549; isolectotype: NY barcode NY00074550). Former syntypes:—JAMAICA. Saint James Parish, Lapland, near Catadupa, 660 m, 13 February 1906, *W.H. Harris 9175* (NY barcode NY00074548, US barcode US00096388; s.l., s.d., *H.R. Wullschlägel 1322* (not seen, probably destroyed in B herbarium).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Jamaica.

**References:**—Fawcett & Rendle (1920: 302), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 164), Adams *et al.* (1972: 424), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317).

**23. *Acalypha pycnantha*** Urban (1926: 59). Lectotype (designated here):—HAITI. Massif des Cabos near Dessalines ad Case-a-Roches, 50 m, 13 March 1925, *E.L. Ekman H3508* (S barcode S-R-7767); isolectotypes: A barcode A00045431, C barcode C10013861, F barcode F0055814F, G barcode G00383719, GH barcode GH00045430, K barcode K000600556, MO barcode MO767996, NY barcode NY00083251, US barcode US00096391).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Hispaniola (Haiti).

**References:**—Liogier (1986: 68), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317).

**24. *Acalypha pygmaea*** A.Rich. in Sagra (1850: 205) ≡ *Acalypha reptans* var. *pygmaea* (A.Rich.) Müller Argoviensis (1865: 49) ≡ *Acalypha chamaedrifolia* var. *pygmaea* (A.Rich.) Müller Argoviensis (1866: 880). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. s.l., s.d., *R. de la Sagra s.n.* (P barcode P00645418).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1865: 49, 1866: 880), Prain & Hutchinson (1013: 27), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 132), Alain (1953: 99), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Almirall (2016), Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**25. *Acalypha rupestris*** Urban (1930: 223). Lectotype (designated here):—CUBA. Oriente province, Sierra Maestra, Arroyo Bayajá, 300 m, 8 August 1922, *E.L. Ekman 14756* (S barcode S-R-7772; isolectotypes: HAC 16169, NY barcode NY00083252).

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Cuba.

**References:**—Alain (1953: 98), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317), Almirall (2016) Greuter & Rankin (2016: 134), Gutiérrez *et al.* (2024: 465).

**26. *Acalypha scabrosa*** Swartz (1788: 99) ≡ *Acalypha scabrosa* var. *genuina* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 33), *nom. inval.* ≡ *Ricinocarpus scabrosus* (Sw.) Kuntze (1891: 618). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. s.l., s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (S barcode S-R-27; isolectotypes: G-DC barcode G00324468, LD barcode LD1265805, S barcodes S10-42496, S10-42497, SBT barcode SBT12247).

= *Acalypha betulifolia* Swartz (1788: 100) ≡ *Acalypha scabrosa* var. *betulifolia* (Sw.) Müller Argoviensis (1865: 33). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. s.l., s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (S barcode S-R-20; isolectotypes: LD barcode LD1739705, SBT barcode SBT12246).

= *Acalypha scabrosa* var. *ovata* Grisebach (1859: 47). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. Portland Parish, Manchioneal, 18 March 1858, *N. Wilson 423* (GOET barcode GOET006448). Former syntype:—JAMAICA. s.l., 1850, *R.C. Alexander s.n.* (GOET barcode GOET006449).

= *Acalypha scabrosa* var. *elongata* Urban (1908: 389). Lectotype (designated here):—JAMAICA. Saint Mary Parish, Blue Mountains, Sheldon, 25 May 1894, *W.H. Harris 5158* (NY barcode NY00083253; isolectotype UCWI barcode UCWI00135). Former syntype:—JAMAICA. Saint Mary Parish, Blue Mountains, s.d., *W.H. Harris 5159*. Not found.

**Distribution:**—Greater Antilles: Jamaica.

**References:**—Swartz (1800: 1175, 1177), Grisebach (1859: 47), Müller Argoviensis (1865: 33, 1866: 862), Fawcett & Rendle (1920: 299), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 125), Adams *et al.* (1972: 424), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 317).

**27. *Acalypha tomentosa*** Swartz (1788: 99) ≡ *Ricinocarpus tomentosus* (Sw.) Kuntze (1891: 618). Lectotype (designated here):—HISPANIOLA. s.l., s.d., *O.P. Swartz s.n.* (G-DC barcode G00324320; isolectotypes: LD barcode LD1265745, LINN barcode LINN-HS1491-9, S barcodes S13-19482, S13-19484, S13-19488, S13-19489, S-R-28, SBT barcode SBT12251).

= *Acalypha carpinifolia* Poirét (1804: 203), *syn. nov.* ≡ *Acalypha carpinifolia* var. *genuina* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 22), *nom. inval.* ≡ *Ricinocarpus carpinifolius* (Poir.) Kuntze (1891: 617). Type:—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Santo Domingo, s.d., *Herb. Jussieu 16545*. (holotype P-JUSS barcode P00678931; isotypes G-DC barcodes G00324325, G00324326).

= *Acalypha domingensis* Sprengel (1826: 880), *syn. nov.* ≡ *Acalypha carpinifolia* var. *domingensis* (Spreng.) Müller Argoviensis (1865: 22). Lectotype (designated here):—DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. Santo Domingo, s.d., *C.L.G. Bertero s.n.* (M barcode M0239419; isolectotype H barcode H1372745).

**Distribution:**—**Greater Antilles:** Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti).

**References:**—Müller Argoviensis (1865: 22, 1866: 836, 837), Urban (1919: 409, 1920: 360), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 60, 176), Baker & Dardeau (1930: 184), Moscoso (1943: 300), Liogier (1986: 65), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 316).

**Notes:**—1. *Acalypha carpinifolia* Poir. was erroneously cited as “*A. carpinifolia* Müll.Arg.” by Pax & Hoffmann (1924), who placed it as a synonym of *A. angustifolia* Sw. This mistake persisted in subsequent works. After studying the type specimens of *A. angustifolia*, *A. carpinifolia*, and *A. tomentosa*, we conclude that *A. carpinifolia* should be treated as a synonym of *A. tomentosa*.

2.—*Acalypha domingensis* has until now been considered a synonym of *A. angustifolia*. However, after studying the type specimens of *A. domingensis*, we consider that it should instead be treated as a synonym of *A. tomentosa*.

3.—*Acalypha tomentosa* exhibits considerable variation in leaf indumentum, ranging from densely tomentose—particularly on the lower leaf surface—to nearly glabrous.

**28. *Acalypha virgata*** Linnaeus (1759: 1275) ≡ *Ricinocarpus virgatus* (L.) Kuntze (1891: 618), non *A. virgata* Thunberg (1784: 268), nec *A. virgata* Forster (1786: 67) nec *A. virgata* Vellozo (1831: t. 63). **Lectotype** (designated by Fawcett & Rendle 1920: 301):—JAMAICA. s.l., s.d., *S. Brown* 346 (LINN barcode LINN-HL1139-2).

= *Acalypha virgata* var. *pubescens* Fawcett & Rendle (1919: 314). Type:—JAMAICA. Claverty Cottage, Blue Mountain, J.P. 1421, s.d., *J. Hart* s.n. (K, JAM) (not seen).

**Distribution:**—**Greater Antilles:** Jamaica.

**References:**—Grisebach (1859: 47), Müller Argoviensis (1865: 15, 1866: 816), Fawcett & Rendle (1920: 300, 301), Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 164), Adams *et al.* (1972: 424), Jarvis (2007: 253), Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong (2012: 318).

**Notes:**—An illustration corresponding to this species appeared, prior to its publication, in Browne (1756: 346, pl. 36, fig. 2).

## NATIVE NON-ENDEMIC SPECIES

**1. *Acalypha alopecuroidea*** Jacquin (1790: 19).

Native in the Caribbean coast of Colombia and Venezuela, and probably introduced in Brazil, Ecuador, and Peru (Cardiel *et al.* 2023), and in the United States (Levin 2016).

**West Indies distribution:**—**Bahamas. Grater Antilles:** Cayman Islands, Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico. **Lesser Antilles:** Dominica, Grenada, Grenadines, Martinique, St. Lucia, Trinidad.

**2. *Acalypha arvensis*** Poeppig (1841: 21).

Native and widely distributed from the south-eastern United States to central South America (Cardiel *et al.* 2023) and introduced into tropical Africa (Cardiel & Montero-Muñoz 2018).

**West Indies distribution:**—**Greater Antilles:** Cuba. **Lesser Antilles:** Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia, Trinidad.

**3. *Acalypha cuspidata*** Jacquin (1797: 63, t. 243).

Widely distributed in Mexico, the Caribbean, and northern South America (Cardiel *et al.* 2023).

**West Indies distribution:**—**Greater Antilles:** Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica. **Lesser Antilles:** Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Grenada, Grenadines, Margarita, St. Vincent, Virgin Island.

**4. *Acalypha havanensis*** Müller Argoviensis (1865: 49) ≡ *Ricinocarpus havanensis* (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze (1891: 618). Type:—CUBA. La Habana, 1829, *R. de la Sagra* 106 (holotype G-DC barcode G00324856; isotypes: G barcode G00383688, P barcode P00635264).

*Acalypha havanensis* is only known of Cuba and Mexico.

**West Indies distribution:**—**Greater Antilles:** Cuba.

**Notes:**—*Acalypha havanensis* is currently treated as an accepted species, with records limited to Cuba and Mexico (Müller Argoviensis, 1866, Pax & Hoffmann 1924, Alain 1953, Roig & Mesa 1988, Acevedo-Rodríguez &

Strong 2012, García-Mendoza & Meave 2012, Almirall 2013, 2016, Greuter & Rankin 2016, Gutiérrez *et al.* 2024). A thorough examination of the type specimens, along with numerous additional collections, reveals that *A. havanensis* is morphologically very similar to the widespread *A. poiretii*, suggesting that it may be conspecific. Nevertheless, a recent phylogenetic analysis by Levin *et al.* (2022), based on molecular data, places *A. havanensis* and *A. poiretii* in separate clades. In Mexico—the only country where both species are known to coexist—*A. havanensis* typically has a deeply cordate leaf base with glandular trichomes, whereas *A. poiretii* shows a slightly cordate leaf base and lacks glandular trichomes (Victor Steinmann, pers. comm.). Historically, Pax & Hoffmann (1924) assigned these species to different sections based on their inflorescences, androgynous in *A. poiretii* and unisexual in *A. havanensis*. However, *A. poiretii* typically exhibits mostly female inflorescences with a short apical segment of male flowers that is often deciduous, potentially leading to misinterpretation as unisexual. This feature may account for repeated misidentifications in herbarium material. Given the current molecular evidence, we maintain *A. havanensis* and *A. poiretii* as distinct species, pending the completion of further integrative taxonomic studies.

**5. *Acalypha ostryifolia*** Riddell (1835: 33, *nom. inval.*) ex Coulter (1894: 213), *nom. cons. prop.* Lectotype (designated by Levin *et al.* 2025: 469):—UNITED STATES. Ohio: Cincinnati, *T.G. Lea 19* (NY barcode NY00232985).

= *Acalypha persimilis* Müller Argoviensis (1865: 25), *nom. rej. prop.* Lectotype (designated by Levin *et al.* 2025: 469):—CUBA? s.l., s.d. (probably from Cuba), probably a collection made by Sessé and Mociño (G barcode G00383598).

Native to Mexico, the United States, Guatemala, Nicaragua and the West Indies (Cardiel *et al.* 2024).

**West Indies distribution:**—**Bahamas, Greater Antilles:** Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, **Lesser Antilles:** Virgin Islands (St. Thomas).

**6. *Acalypha poiretii*** Sprengel (1826: 879).

*Acalypha poiretii* is a very common and widely distributed species in North America, the Caribbean Islands, Central America, and South America, and is adventive in Africa and Asia (Cardiel *et al.* 2023).

**West Indies distribution:**—**Greater Antilles:** Cuba, Hispaniola. **Lesser Antilles:** Anguilla, Aruba, Barbados, Bonaire, Curaçao, Grenadines, Guadalupe, Marie Galante, Montserrat, Saint-Barthélemy, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. John, St. Thomas).

**7. *Acalypha setosa*** A.Rich. in Sagra (1850: 204).

Widely distributed in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean Islands, and northern South America (Cardiel *et al.* 2023). Possibly introduced in the United States (Levin 2016)

**West Indies distribution:**—**Bahamas, Greater Antilles:** Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico. **Lesser Antilles:** Grenada.

**8. *Acalypha villosa*** Jacquin (1760: 32).

Widely distributed from Mexico to South America (Cardiel *et al.* 2023).

**West Indies distribution:**—**Greater Antilles:** Jamaica. **Lesser Antilles:** Curaçao, Grenada.

## INTRODUCED SPECIES

**1. *Acalypha diversifolia*** Jacquin (1797: 63, t. 244).

Very common and widely distributed in Southern Mexico, Central America, and northern South America (Cardiel *et al.* 2023). In the West Indies, it has only been cited as exotic in Cuba (Acevedo & Strong 2012, Gutiérrez *et al.* 2024) and Tobago (Baksh-Comeau *et al.* 2016).

**2. *Acalypha hispida*** Burman (1768: 203 [‘303’], t. 61, f. 1).

Native to Melanesia or Malesia (Sagun *et al.* 2010), this species has been introduced as an ornamental plant throughout the tropics and sometimes appears naturalised (Cardiel *et al.* 2022). It has been cited from the Greater Antilles (Cayman Islands, Cuba, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands) and the Lesser Antilles (Howard 1989, Acevedo & Strong 2012), though it likely occurs, cultivated or naturalised, throughout the region.

**3. *Acalypha indica*** Linnaeus (1753: 1003).

Native to the Paleotropics, this species is an adventive herb in the Caribbean Islands and northern South America (Cardiel *et al.* 2023). It has been cited from the Lesser Antilles (St. Martin, St. Barthélemy, Guadeloupe, La Désirade, Marie Galante, Martinique, St. Lucia, St. Martin, and Grenada) and the Greater Antilles (Cuba and Puerto Rico) (Howard 1989, Acevedo & Strong 2012, Gutiérrez *et al.* 2024).

**4. *Acalypha macrostachya*** Jacquin (1797: 63, t. 245).

Very common and widely distributed in Mexico, Central America, and South America (Cardiel *et al.* 2023). In the Lesser Antilles, it has only been cited from Grenada (Howard 1989) and Trinidad and Tobago (Baksh-Comeau *et al.* 2016).

**5. *Acalypha wilkesiana*** Müller Argoviensis (1866: 846).

Native to Fiji (Sagun *et al.* 2010), this species has been introduced as an ornamental plant throughout the tropics and is frequently naturalised (Cardiel *et al.* 2022). It is also cited in the literature of the West Indies as *Acalypha tricolor* Hort. ex Seemann, *A. marginata* (Poir.) Spreng. or *A. musaica* Williams (Howard 1989). It has been cited in the Greater Antilles (Cuba, Hispaniola, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) and the Lesser Antilles (Saba) (Howard 1989, Acevedo & Strong 2012), though it likely occurs, cultivated or naturalised, throughout the region.

## DUBIOUS AND EXCLUDED SPECIES

***Acalypha jamaicensis*** Rafinesque (1836: 46).

*Acalypha jamaicensis* is one of thousands of species described by the eccentric naturalist Constantine Samuel Rafinesque (1783–1840). Its description is incomplete and ambiguous, as already noted by Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 176). The specimen(s) on which the description is based are unknown; the original publication gives only “*In Jamaica and perhaps in Florida*” as its place of origin. We cannot therefore determine the identity of this name.

***Acalypha laxiflora*** Müller Argoviensis (1865: 18).

Müller Argoviensis (1865) cited the original collection of *Acalypha laxiflora* as “In Mexico (Pavon! in hb. Boiss.)” and also cited as a synonym “*Acalypha leptostachya* A. Rich. in Ramon de la Sagra Hist. Fis. Natur. Cuba. vol 3. p. 205 (non Kunth)”. This caused *A. laxiflora* to later be cited as native to both Mexico and Cuba (e.g., Alain, 1953). Richard (in Sagra 1850: 205) indeed described a Cuban specimen collected by Ramon de la Sagra, identifying it as *A. leptostachya* (currently a synonym of *A. diversifolia*), although he expressed doubts about its true identity. Therefore, the “*Acalypha leptostachya* A. Rich.” cited by Müller Argoviensis should be considered a *nomen nudum*. The Cuban specimen described by Richard (*De la Sagra s.n.*, P barcode P04838431) actually corresponds to *A. membranacea*, the only known species of its kind in Cuba. The specimen cited by Müller Argoviensis (*Herb. Pavon s.n.*, G barcodes G00324343 and G00383678) has conflicting labels; the presumed original label indicates its origin as “Nueva España” (the Viceroyalty of the Spanish empire that included Mexico, Central America and most Caribbean islands), while another handwritten label by Müller Argoviensis suggests a Cuban origin. Subsequent citations of this species from Cuba (e.g., Alain 1953, Gutiérrez *et al.* 2024) are solely based on the previously mentioned collection by *De la Sagra s.n.* We conclude that *Acalypha laxiflora* is only reliably known from Mexico (Villaseñor 2016), and we cannot confirm its presence in Cuba.

***Acalypha multipartita*** Moench (1802: 122).

The original description of this species is too poor for it to be confidently identified, and the specimen(s) on which it is based are unknown. Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 62) tentatively considered it a possible synonym of *Acalypha tomentosa* Sw.

***Acalypha tiliifolia*** Poiret (1804: 203).

*Acalypha tiliifolia* was described from Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic). The brief description of this species does not allow us to know its identity, and we have not found the type specimen (*Herb. Jussieu s.n.*) in the Jussieu herbarium (P-JUSS). Müller Argoviensis (1866: 889) and Pax & Hoffmann (1924: 177) already mention this name as excluded species.

## Discussion

We have compiled 107 names related to *Acalypha* from the West Indies. We recognise 36 accepted native species, 28 of them endemic to the region (including the nearly endemic *A. chamaedrifolia*, found outside the region only in southern Florida, United States). We identify five species as introduced and exclude four names as dubious. We also list eight names not validly published, two of them *nomina nuda* (Table 1). We indicate type specimens for all valid names and designate 41 lectotypes and one epitype.

**TABLE 1.** Taxa included in *Acalypha* of the West Indies (Caribbean Region).

Published names (accepted names in bold)	Accepted names
<i>A. adenophora</i> Griseb.	<i>A. membranacea</i> A.Rich.
<i>A. adscendens</i> Hornem.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
<i>A. alexandri</i> Urb.	<i>A. elliptica</i>
<b><i>A. alopecuroidea</i></b> Jacq.	
<b><i>A. angustifolia</i></b> Sw.	
var. <i>genuina</i> Müll.Arg. ( <i>nom. inval.</i> )	<i>A. angustifolia</i> Sw.
var. <i>glabrata</i> Müll.Arg.	<i>A. angustifolia</i> Sw.
<i>A. arcuata</i> Urb.	<i>A. angustifolia</i> Sw.
<b><i>A. arvensis</i></b> Poepp.	
<b><i>A. berteriana</i></b> Müll.Arg.	
<i>A. betulifolia</i> Sw.	<i>A. scabrosa</i> Sw.
<b><i>A. bisetosa</i></b> Bertero ex Spreng.	
<i>A. carpinifolia</i> Poir.	<i>A. tomentosa</i> Sw.
var. <i>domingensis</i> (Spreng.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. tomentosa</i> Sw.
var. <i>genuina</i> Müll.Arg. ( <i>nom. inval.</i> )	<i>A. tomentosa</i> Sw.
<b><i>A. chamaedrifolia</i></b> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.	
var. <i>brevipes</i> (Müll.Arg.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
var. <i>fissa</i> Müll.Arg.	<i>A. fissa</i> (Müll.Arg.) Hutch.
var. <i>glechomifolia</i> (A.Rich.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. glechomifolia</i> A.Rich.
var. <i>nana</i> Müll.Arg.	<i>A. nana</i> (Müll.Arg.) Griseb. ex Hutch.
var. <i>pendula</i> (C.Wright ex Griseb.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. pendula</i> C.Wright ex Griseb.
<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> var. <i>pygmaea</i> (A.Rich.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. pygmaea</i> A.Rich.
<i>A. corchorifolia</i> Willd.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
<b><i>A. cubensis</i></b> Urb.	
<b><i>A. cuspidata</i></b> Jacq.	
<b><i>A. distans</i></b> Müll.Arg.	
<b><i>A. diversifolia</i></b> Jacq.	
<i>A. domingensis</i> Spreng.	<i>A. tomentosa</i> Sw.
<b><i>A. elizabethae</i></b> R.A.Howard	
<b><i>A. elliptica</i></b> Sw.	
<b><i>A. fissa</i></b> (Müll.Arg.) Hutch.	
<b><i>A. glechomifolia</i></b> A.Rich.	
<b><i>A. grisebachiana</i></b> (Kuntze) Pax & K.Hoffm.	
<b><i>A. havanensis</i></b> Müll.Arg.	
<i>A. hernandiifolia</i> Sw.	<i>A. elliptica</i> Sw.
var. <i>genuina</i> Müll.Arg. ( <i>nom. inval.</i> )	<i>A. elliptica</i> Sw.
var. <i>pubescens</i> Müll.Arg.	<i>A. elliptica</i> Sw.

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**TABLE 1.** (Continued)

Published names (accepted names in bold)	Accepted names
<i>A. hispaniolae</i> Urb.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
<i>A. hispida</i> Burm.f.	
<i>A. hotteana</i> Urb.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
<i>A. hutchinsonii</i> Britton	
<i>A. indica</i> L.	
<i>A. jamaicensis</i> Britton	<i>A. leicesterfieldiensis</i> Radcl.-Sm. & Govaerts
<i>A. jamaicensis</i> Raf.	Dubious and excluded
<i>A. laevigata</i> Sw.	
<i>A. laxiflora</i> Müll.Arg.	Dubious and excluded
<i>A. leicesterfieldiensis</i> Radcl.-Sm. & Govaerts	
<i>A. leptorhachis</i> Müll.Arg.	
<i>A. macrosperma</i> Müll.Arg.	<i>A. membranacea</i> A.Rich.
<i>A. macrostachya</i> Griseb. ( <i>nom. nud.</i> )	<i>A. grisebachiana</i> (Kuntze) Pax & K.Hoffm.
<i>A. macrostachya</i> Jacq.	
<i>A. maestrensis</i> Urb.	
<i>A. membranacea</i> A.Rich.	
<i>A. mogotensis</i> Urb.	
<i>A. multipartita</i> Moench	Dubious and excluded
<i>A. nana</i> (Müll.Arg.) Griseb. ex Hutch.	
<i>A. ostryifolia</i> Riddell ( <i>nom. inval.</i> )	<i>A. ostryifolia</i> Riddell ex J.M.Coult.
<i>A. ostryifolia</i> Riddell ex J.M.Coult.	
<i>A. pallescens</i> Urb.	<i>A. elliptica</i> Sw.
<i>A. pendula</i> C.Wright ex Griseb.	
<i>A. persimilis</i> Müll.Arg.	<i>A. ostryifolia</i> Riddell ex J.M.Coult.
<i>A. platyodonta</i> Urb.	<i>A. angustifolia</i> Sw.
<i>A. poiretii</i> Spreng.	
<i>A. portoricensis</i> Müll.Arg.	
<i>A. pruinosa</i> Urb.	
<i>A. pycnantha</i> Urb.	
<i>A. pygmaea</i> A.Rich.	
<i>A. reptans</i> Sw.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
var. <i>brevipes</i> Müll.Arg.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
var. <i>genuina</i> Müll.Arg. ( <i>nom. inval.</i> )	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
var. <i>glechomifolia</i> (A.Rich.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. glechomifolia</i> A.Rich.
var. <i>pygmaea</i> (A.Rich.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. pygmaea</i> A.Rich.
<i>A. rupestris</i> Urb.	
<i>A. setosa</i> A. Rich.	
<i>A. scabrosa</i> Sw.	
var. <i>betulifolia</i> (Sw.) Müll.Arg.	<i>A. scabrosa</i> Sw.
var. <i>elongata</i> Urb.	<i>A. scabrosa</i> Sw.
var. <i>genuina</i> Müll.Arg. ( <i>nom. inval.</i> )	<i>A. scabrosa</i> Sw.
var. <i>ovata</i> Griseb.	<i>A. scabrosa</i> Sw.
<i>A. squarrosa</i> Klotzsch ( <i>nom. nud.</i> )	<i>A. membranacea</i> A.Rich.
<i>A. tiliifolia</i> Poir.	Dubious and excluded

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**TABLE 1.** (Continued)

Published names (accepted names in bold)	Accepted names
<i>A. tomentosa</i> Sw.	
<i>A. ostryifolia</i> Riddell	
<i>A. villosa</i> Jacq.	
<i>A. vincentina</i> Urb.	<i>A. leptorhachis</i> Müll.Arg.
<i>A. virgata</i> L.	
var. <i>pubescens</i> Fawc. & Rendle	<i>A. virgata</i> L.
<i>A. wilkesiana</i> Müll.Arg.	
<i>Croton chamaedrifolius</i> Lam.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
<i>Cupamenis chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Raf.	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
<i>Ricinocarpus angustifolius</i> (Sw.) Kuntze	<i>A. angustifolia</i> Sw.
<i>R. berteruanus</i> (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze	<i>A. berteruana</i> Müll.Arg.
<i>R. bisetosus</i> (Bertero ex Spreng.) Kuntze	<i>A. bisetosa</i> Bertero ex Spreng.
<i>R. chamaedrifolius</i> (Lam.) Kuntze	<i>A. chamaedrifolia</i> (Lam.) Müll.Arg.
<i>R. carpinifolius</i> (Poir.) Kuntze	<i>A. tomentosa</i> Sw.
<i>R. distans</i> (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze	<i>A. distans</i> Müll.Arg.
<i>R. ellipticus</i> (Sw.) Kuntze	<i>A. elliptica</i> Sw.
<i>R. grisebachianus</i> Kuntze	<i>A. grisebachiana</i> (Kuntze) Pax & K.Hoffm.
<i>R. havanensis</i> (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze	<i>A. havanensis</i> Müll.Arg.
<i>R. hernandiifolius</i> (Sw.) Kuntze	<i>A. elliptica</i> Sw.
<i>R. laevigatus</i> (Sw.) Kuntze	<i>A. laevigata</i> Sw.
<i>R. leptorhachis</i> (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze	<i>A. leptorhachis</i> Müll.Arg.
<i>R. membranaceus</i> (A.Rich.) Kuntze	<i>A. membranacea</i> A.Rich.
<i>R. portoricensis</i> (Müll.Arg.) Kuntze	<i>A. portoricensis</i> Müll.Arg.
<i>R. scabrosus</i> (Sw.) Kuntze	<i>A. scabrosa</i> Sw.
<i>R. tomentosus</i> (Sw.) Kuntze	<i>A. tomentosa</i> Sw.
<i>R. virgatus</i> (L.) Kuntze	<i>A. virgata</i> L.

Four species are based on specimens collected by Charles Wright in an imprecise location of Cuba (*Acalypha distans*, *A. fissa*, *A. nana*, and *A. pendula*). These specimens have several presumed duplicates housed in various herbaria each. We have re-examined all of them, verifying—where possible—that they correspond to the same collection.

We propose four new synonyms: *Acalypha pallescens*, previously considered as accepted species, as synonym of *A. elliptica* Sw. We recognise *A. carpinifolia* and *A. dominguensis*—previously treated as synonyms of *A. angustifolia*—as synonyms of *A. tomentosa*. Finally, we consider *A. platydonia*—previously treated as a synonym of *A. tomentosa*—as a synonym of *A. angustifolia*.

Most of the Caribbean *Acalypha* species belong to subgenus *Acalypha*, and only three species belong to subgenus *Linostachys* (*A. elizabethae*, *A. leptorhachys*, and *A. villosa*).

The Greater Antilles harbour the majority of native species. Cuba has the highest species richness (20), followed by Jamaica and Hispaniola (12 each), and Puerto Rico (7). The Lesser Antilles contain 13 native species, and the Bahamas islands four (Table 2).

Endemism among *Acalypha* species in the West Indies is remarkable, with endemic species representing 78% of all native species. This percentage exceeds the 72% estimated for all seed plants in the region (Acevedo-Rodríguez & Strong 2012). Most endemic species are restricted to a single island (see Table 2). Only *A. chamaedrifolia* is widely distributed across the region. *A. glechomifolia* and *A. pendula* occur in both Cuba and Hispaniola, while *A. portoricensis* is restricted to Puerto Rico and the adjacent Virgin Islands. The most geographically restricted species are *A. elizabethae*, found only on the small island of Saint Lucia, and *A. grisebachiana*, restricted to Trinidad, both within the Lesser Antilles. At the island level, Cuba and Jamaica shows the highest endemism rate (50%), followed by Puerto Rico (29%), and Hispaniola (25%).

**TABLE 2.** Distribution of native *Acalypha* species in the West Indies (Caribbean Region). Regional endemic species in bold. Endemic species in each island/s: \*.

BAHAMAS	
<i>A. alopecuroidea</i>	<i>A. ostryifolia</i>
<b><i>A. chamaedrifolia</i></b>	<i>A. setosa</i>
GREATER ANTILLES	
<b>Cayman Island</b>	
<i>A. alopecuroidea</i>	<b><i>A. chamaedrifolia</i></b>
<b>Cuba</b>	
<i>A. alopecuroidea</i>	<b><i>A. maestrensis</i></b> *
<b><i>A. chamaedrifolia</i></b>	<b><i>A. membranacea</i></b> *
<b><i>A. cubensis</i></b> *	<b><i>A. mogotensis</i></b> *
<i>A. cuspidata</i>	<b><i>A. nana</i></b> *
<b><i>A. distans</i></b> *	<i>A. ostryifolia</i>
<b><i>A. fissa</i></b> *	<i>A. pendula</i>
<b><i>A. glechomifolia</i></b>	<i>A. poiretii</i>
<i>A. havanensis</i>	<b><i>A. pygmaea</i></b> *
<b><i>A. hutchinsonii</i></b> *	<b><i>A. rupestris</i></b> *
<b><i>A. leptorhachis</i></b>	<i>A. setosa</i>
<b>Hispaniola</b>	
<i>A. alopecuroidea</i>	<i>A. pendula</i>
<b><i>A. angustifolia</i></b> *	<i>A. poiretii</i>
<b><i>A. chamaedrifolia</i></b>	<b><i>A. tomentosa</i></b> *
<i>A. cuspidata</i>	<b><i>A. pruinosa</i></b>
<b><i>A. glechomifolia</i></b>	<b><i>A. pycnantha</i></b> *
<i>A. ostryifolia</i>	<i>A. setosa</i>
<b>Jamaica</b>	
<i>A. alopecuroidea</i>	<i>A. ostryifolia</i>
<b><i>A. chamaedrifolia</i></b>	<b><i>A. pruinosa</i></b> *
<i>A. cuspidata</i>	<i>A. pendula</i>
<b><i>A. elliptica</i></b> *	<b><i>A. scabrosa</i></b> *
<b><i>A. laevigata</i></b> *	<i>A. villosa</i>
<b><i>A. leicesterfieldi</i></b> nsis*	<b><i>A. virgata</i></b> *
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	
<i>A. alopecuroidea</i>	<i>A. ostryifolia</i>
<b><i>A. berteriana</i></b> *	<b><i>A. portoricensis</i></b>
<b><i>A. bisetosa</i></b> *	<i>A. setosa</i>
<b><i>A. chamaedrifolia</i></b>	

## LESSER ANTILLES

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*A. alopecuroidea*

*A. arvensis*

***A. chamaedrifolia***

*A. cuspidata*

*A. elizabethae*\* (St. Lucia)

*A. grisebachiana*\* (Trinidad)

***A. leptorhachis***

*A. ostryifolia*

*A. pendula*

*A. poiretii*

***A. portoricensis***

*A. setosa*

*A. villosa*

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*Acalypha leptorhachis* presents a distinctive biogeographic pattern, with an apparently disjunct distribution between Cuba and Saint Vincent in the Lesser Antilles. Müller Argoviensis (1865) originally described this species from a Cuban specimen collected in “Havana” in 1825. However, no subsequent collections have confirmed its presence in Cuba, rendering its current status on the island uncertain. In 1930, Urban described *A. vincentina* from Saint Vincent, but Muñoz-Rodríguez *et al.* (2014) later synonymised this name with *A. leptorhachis*, a conclusion our current review supports. Fortunately, *A. leptorhachis* is well-represented on Saint Vincent, with numerous modern collections confirming its presence. This species belongs to subgenus *Linostachys* and is easily identifiable by its filiform female inflorescences (either racemose or paniculate) with small bracts that do not enlarge in the fruiting stage.

The native non-endemic *Acalypha* species are generally widespread and common, ranging from Mexico through Central and South America. These include *A. arvensis*, *A. alopecuroidea*, *A. cuspidata*, *A. poiretii*, *A. setosa*, and *A. villosa*. In addition, *A. ostryifolia* occurs in the United States, Mexico, and Central America. Introduced species include Central and South American natives, such as *A. diversifolia* and *A. macrostachya*, whose presence in the West Indies is likely incidental. Other introduced species are *A. indica*, a weed native to the Paleotropics, and ornamental species such as *A. hispida* and *A. wilkesiana*, which are cultivated throughout the tropics.

Although the genus is largely dominated by woody species (small trees and shrubs), the Caribbean stands out for its remarkable diversity of herbaceous *Acalypha*. Around 40% of the species in the region are annual herbs or slightly woody at the base, many of them strikingly small, creeping, pendant or delicately erect, with minute leaves and flowers. Among these, the Cuban species *Acalypha nana* and *A. pygmaea* are the tiniest known species in the entire genus. They represent examples of microphyllly and micranthy, two patterns identified as distinctive features of the Cuban flora and attributed to the island’s complex geological history and diverse soil types (Borhidi 1988, 1996). This notable concentration of small herbaceous forms may reflect unique ecological or evolutionary processes in the region and deserves further study.

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