

Abstract

Emilia is a widely distributed, mainly African, palaeotropical genus in the tribe Senecioneae (Asteraceae). It comprises of 117 species, most of which are annual herbs. Bayesian and parsimony phylogenetic analyses were performed on 51 *Emilia* species along with closely related genera in the Senecioneae using nuclear ITS and plastid trnL-trnF sequence data to address questions around the generic circumscription of *Emilia*, including the status of the similar genera *Emiliella* and *Bafutia*, assess Jeffrey's sectional classification of *Emilia*, and evaluate the distinctness of the morphologically similar species in the large-headed *Emilia coccinea* complex.

Both nuclear and plastid phylogenies reveal *Emilia* to be paraphyletic and polyphyletic, with *Bafutia* and *Emiliella* nested within *Emilia*, and Jeffrey's sectional classification is not supported. The phylogenies provide additional evidence that *Emilia coccinea* and changes are made in this manuscript.