

**A NEW SPECIES OF *TRIDAX* (ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE) FROM
GYPSUM OUTCROPS IN NUEVO LEON, MEXICO**

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Tridax*, *T. hintoniorum* B. Turner, is described and illustrated from Nuevo León, México where it occurs on gypsum outcrops. It is most closely related to *T. candidissima* A. Gray, a gypseous endemic of San Luis Potosí, México.

KEY WORDS: *Tridax*, Asteraceae, Heliantheae, México

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

***Tridax hintoniorum* B. Turner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Galeana, between La Poza and Río de San José, 1450m, gypsum hillsides, 31 May 1992, *Hinton et al.* 22031 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; Isotype: MEXU!).**

Tridax candidissima A. Gray similis sed foliis late oblanceolatis vel obovati-ellipticis (vs. linearibus) et capitulis in pedunculis nudis 10-40 cm long (vs. radiatis in pedunculis brevibus plerumque 2-8 cm longis) differt.

Erect perennial herbs 30-85 cm high, stems loosely floccose with woolly hairs, among these are interspersed glandular trichomes, the latter uniseriate and up to 1.5 mm long. Leaves elliptic oblanceolate to ovate elliptic, sometimes oblanceolate, mostly 5-12 cm long, 1-4 cm wide, gradually reduced upwards, floccose-tomentose, trinervate; petioles narrowly winged and grading into the blades. Heads hemispheric, single on rather stout naked peduncles, the latter

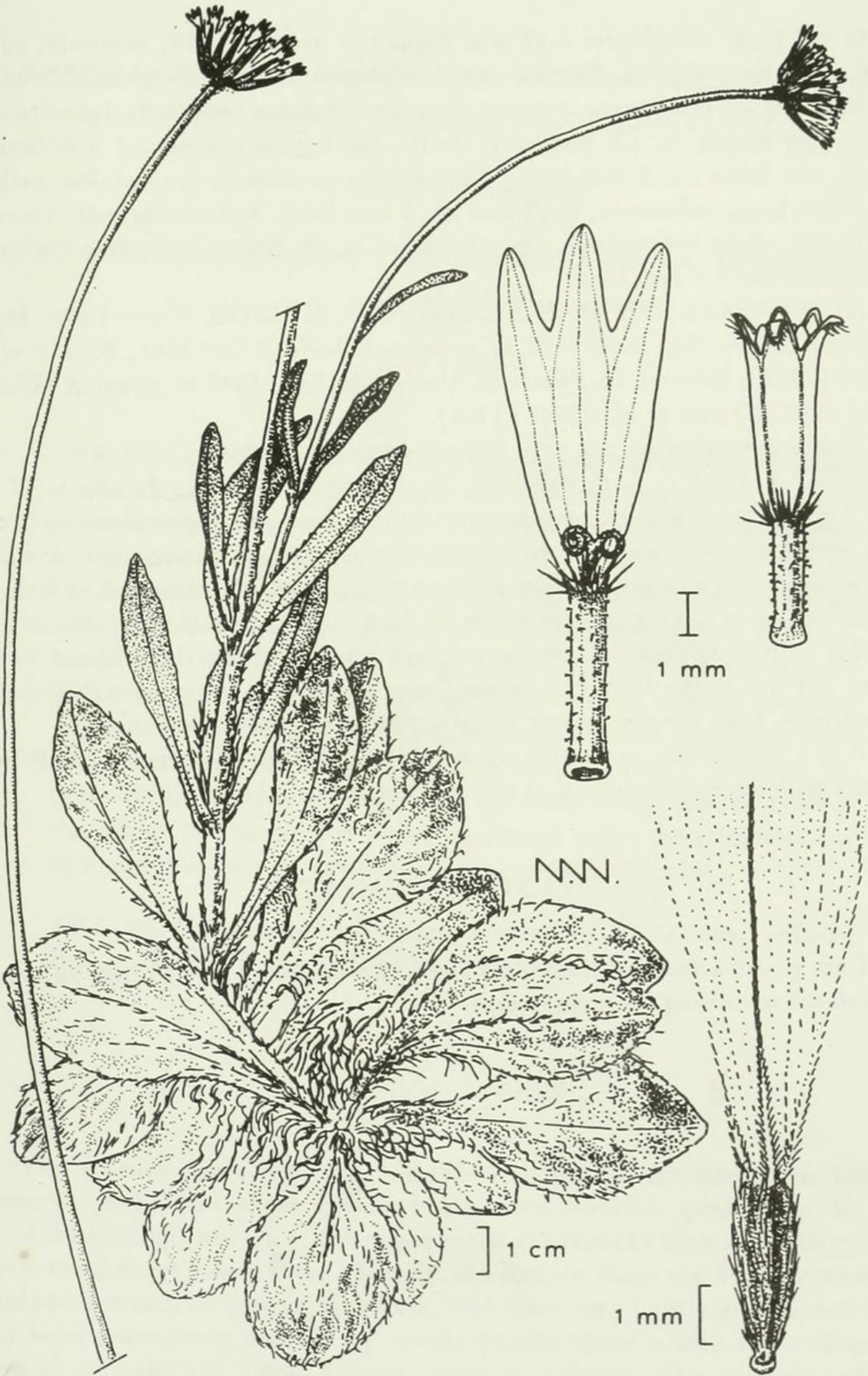


Fig. 1. *Tridax hintoniolum*, from holotype.

10-40 cm long. Involucres 8-12 mm high, the bracts ca. 13, biseriate, subequal, lanceolate-elliptic, floccose or pilose, interspersed with glandular hairs. Receptacles 4-6 mm across, convex, the pales scarious, persistent, lacerate apically. Ray florets ca. 13, pistillate, fertile, the ligules yellow, 5-7 mm long, 3 lobed, the lobes ca. 3 mm long. Disk florets numerous, the corollas yellow, ca. 8 mm long, pubescent, the tubes ca. 3 mm long. Achenes broadly clavate, appressed pilose throughout, the pappus of ca. 20 linear-lanceolate fimbriate tawny bristles 6-7 mm long.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Galeana, Río de San José, 1490 m, gypsum hillside, 2 Oct 1991, *Hinton et al.* 21566 (TEX); between La Poza and Río de San José, 1840 m, gypsum hillside, 1 Jul 1992, *Hinton et al.* 22061 (TEX).

Tridax hintoniorum is a very distinct species but clearly relates to *T. candidissima* A. Gray (*c.f.*, Powell 1965, Taxonomy of *Tridax* ... Brittonia 17:47-96). Both of these are strong perennials having floccose or tomentose vestiture, and both are monocephalous with nongraduate involucral bracts and have similar achenes and corollas. *Tridax hintoniorum* is readily distinguished from *T. candidissima* in having radiate heads on long naked peduncles (10-40 cm long vs. 2-8 cm); in addition its leaves are very broad and mostly confined to the lower portion of the stem (vs. leaves linear and stems leafy throughout). Interestingly, both species appear to be confined to gypsum outcrops.

It is a pleasure to name this remarkable species for the remarkable Hinton family who have collected all of the specimens available to date.

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