

A NEW SPECIES OF *STEVIA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM THE "ANTLER" REGION OF NORTHERN JALISCO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Stevia baccharifolia* B.L. Turner, is described from northernmost Jalisco. It is a shrublet belonging to a group of woody species centering about *S. macvaughii* Grashoff. It is readily distinguished from the latter by its congested capitulescence and eglandular involucre.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Eupatorieae, *Stevia*, Jalisco

Routine identification of Mexican Asteraceae has revealed the following novelty.

Stevia baccharifolia B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Jalisco: Mpio. Totatiche, Rancho Acaspulco, 8 km al SW de Temastian, ca. 2,000 m, 28 Jun 1992, A. Flores M. & J. Flores M. 2684 (HOLOTYPE: TEX; Isotype: IGE).

Steviae macvaughii Grashoff similis sed capitulescentia congesta (vs. laxa), capitulis sessilibus (vs. brevi-pedicellatis) trichomata eglandulosa (vs. valde capitati-glandulosa) efferentibus differt.

Sparsely branched shrublet to 1 m high. Stems densely puberulent, glabrescent with age, new shoots arising from persistent woody stems. Leaves opposite, mostly 4-5 cm long, 1.5-3.0 cm wide; petioles 0.6-1.0 cm long; blades ovate-elliptic, thick, weakly pinnately nervate, the veins not raised, scarcely tapering upon the petiole, if at all, glandular-punctate above and below, sparsely puberulent along the mid ribs, otherwise glabrescent, the margins serrate. Heads sessile or nearly so, arranged in tightly congested corymbs. Involucres 4-5 mm high, the bracts mostly acute at the apices, puberulent to glabrescent.

Corollas ca. 6 mm long, the tube ca. 1.5 mm long, the lobes ca. 1 mm long, pubescent beneath with short appressed hairs. Achenes (immature) ca. 3 mm long, sparsely hispidulous, the pappus a crown of lacerate scales ca. 0.5 mm high.

Stevia baccharifolia belongs to the series *Fruticosae* subseries *Scabrella* as conceived by Grashoff (1972). Within this complex, which is distinguished by its thick nearly glabrous leaves and hispid exaristate achenes, it appears closest to *S. macvaughii* Grashoff, having the habit, foliage, involucre shape and corollas of that taxon, but differs markedly in having a more congested capitulescence, the heads with eglandular involucres. The leaves superficially resemble those of several species of *Baccharis* known to the author, hence its name.

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LITERATURE CITED

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Turner, B. L. 1993. "A new species of *Stevia* (Asteraceae) from the "Antler" region of northern Jalisco." *Phytologia* 74, 369–370.

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