

***Stevia reinana* (Asteraceae: Eupatorieae), a new species from near Yecora, Sonora, Mexico****Billie L. Turner**

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**ABSTRACT**

***Stevia reinana*** B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** is described from easternmost Sonora, Mexico. It is closely related to *S. glandulosa* but readily recognized by a syndrome of characters. A photograph of the type specimen is provided, along with maps showing the distribution of the taxa concerned. Published on-line [www.phytologia.org](http://www.phytologia.org) *Phytologia* 95(3): 233-237 (August 1, 2013).

**KEY WORDS:** Asteraceae, Eupatorieae, *Stevia*, Mexico, Sonora

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*Stevia* is a large, highly variable species complex, many of the taxa exhibiting varying degrees of polyploidy, this often complicated by asexual reproduction. In my treatment of the Mexican species (Turner 1997), I reckoned Mexico to harbor about 80 species; subsequent studies by Soejima et al. (2001) have raised the total to well over 90, and with the present contribution, and those of yet others, the number is now approaching 100.

**STEVIA REINANA** B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** **Fig. 1**

Resembling *Stevia glandulosa* var. *gentryi* but the leaves weakly 3-nervate (vs strongly so), corollas white (vs pink), and 2 or 3 of their achenes having well developed bristles (vs squamellate); and involucre bracts 4-6 mm long (vs 7-8 mm).

Stiffly erect perennial herbs to 1 m high. Stems pilose with mostly recurved hairs. Leaves opposite, linear-lanceolate, 3-8 cm long, 0.4-1.0 cm wide, weakly 3-nervate and scarcely reticulately veined, the margins entire or nearly so; petioles indistinct, 0.1-3.0 mm long. Capitulescence a congested, terminal, corymbose panicle ca 3 cm across, the ultimate peduncles 0.5-3.0 cm long. Heads 7-8 mm high; involucre bracts 5-6 mm long, moderately pubescent with recurved hairs. Corollas white, ca 4 mm long, the lobes glabrous or nearly so, beset with a smattering of amber globules. Achenes, the body, glabrous or nearly so, ca 2.5 mm long; pappus of most achenes having elongate, well developed, bristles, the remaining having short, erose, squamellae.

**TYPE: MEXICO. SONORA: Mpio. de Yécora**, 3.2 km west of Restaurant Puerto de la Cruz, north slopes of Mesa del Campanero; pine-oak forest; 28 22 41 N, 109 02 40 W, 4 Jun 1999, *T. R. Van Devender* 99-240 [with A.L. Reina-G., P. West, K. Baker, B. Scarborough] (Holotype: TEX).

**ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MEXICO. SONORA. Mpio. de Yécora**, 3.5 km W of Arroyo Hondo, 9.7 km W of Chihuahua border on MEX 16, 28 26 06 N, 108 33 33 W, 1370 m, "mesic pine-oak forest on shady north slope," 25 Sep 1997, *Reina G.* 97-1337; 4.8 km W of Puerto de la Cruz on MEX. 16, 1640 m, "shady sycamore canyon in pine-oak forest, 31 Aug 2000, *Reina-G.* 2000-556 (TEX); Restaurant La Palmita, N side of Mesa el Campanero, 1460 m, "oak woodland," *Reina G.* 2000-799 (TEX); 2.7 mi W of Puerto de la Cruz, 1695 m, 22 Sep 1969, *Van Devender* 97-993 (TEX); 19 km SE of the junction with SON. 12 on MEX16, (near San Nicolás), 1420 m, "oak woodland," *Van Devender* 98-2008 (TEX); 14.7 km E of Maycoba, 1460 m, "pine-oak forest," *Van Devender* 99-630 (TEX); Mesa del Campanero, 2100 m, 1 Oct 2000, *Van Devender* 2000-830 (TEX).

*Stevia reinana* belongs to the Fruticosae grouping of *Stevia* (sensu Grashoff, 1972); it will key to or near *S. glandulosa* var. *gentryi* in my treatment of the Comps of Mexico (Turner 1997), differing in a number of characters, as noted in the above.

All of the specimens cited above are remarkably similar and presumably co-occur with *S. plummerae* (Figs. 2, 3) in a small area along MEX highway 16, just where it enters Sonora from Chihuahua. Nevertheless, putative hybrids or intermediates between these have not been detected among the numerous sheets of these taxa at LL-TEX, hence my treatment of the two taxa as distinct species.

The eponym honors Mrs. Ana Lilia Reina-Guerrero, loving mate of my long-time friend and colleague, Tom Van Devender, both having participated in the collection of type material. Long may their marriage endure!

*Stevia reinana* is partially sympatric with *S. glandulosa* var. *gentryi* (Figs. 2, 3) and occurs with, or near the latter in the Mpio. de Yécora, Sonora, as noted by the following collections:

**S. glandulosa** var. **gentryi**: Mpio. de Yécora, 12.4 E of Yecora on Mex. 16, *Reina G.* 98-1763 (TEX); 11 km W of Restaurant Puerto de La Cruz, *Trauba* 83-98 (TEX).

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Fig. 1. *Stevia reinana* (holotype).

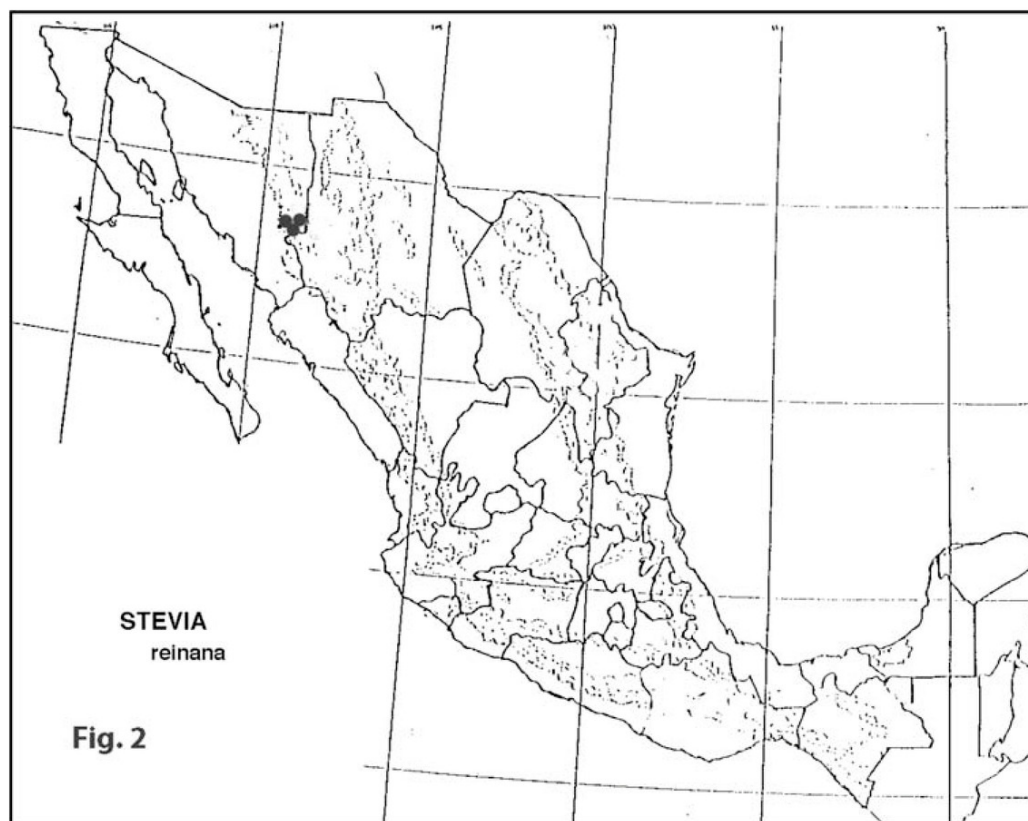


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Stevia reinana*.

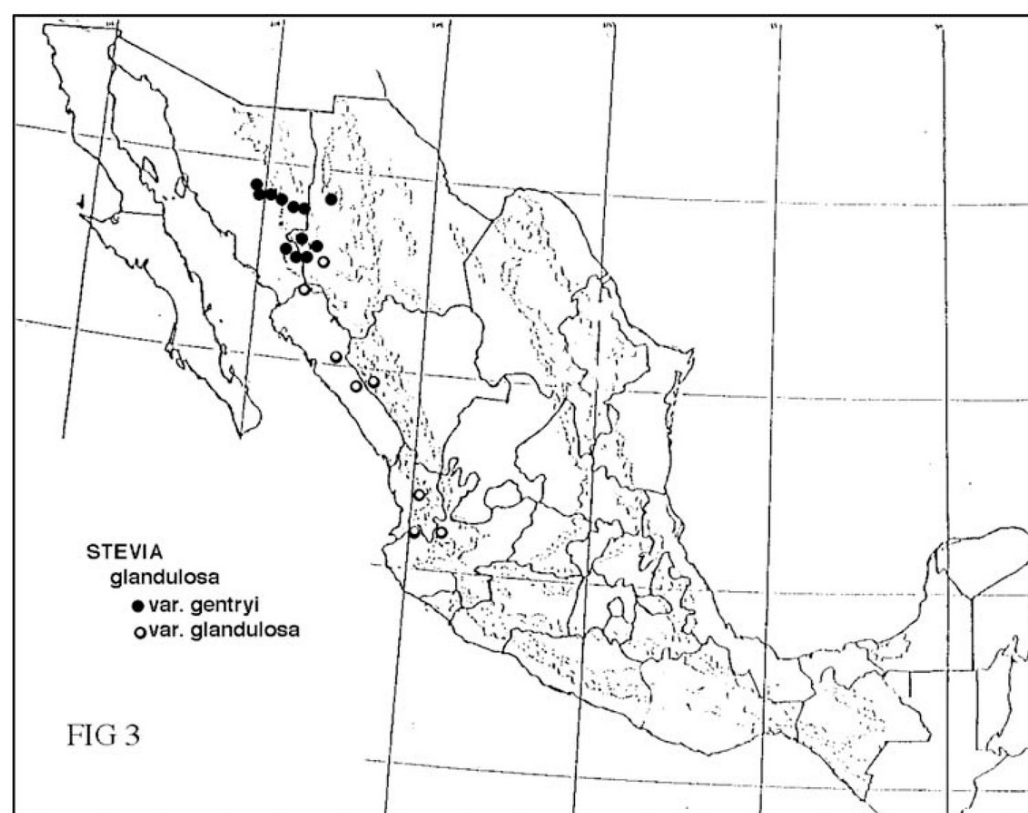


Fig. 3. Distribution of *Stevia glandulosa*.





Fig. 4. Mrs. Ana Lilia Reina-Guerrero.



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