

**RUDBECKIA TEXANA, A TAXON WORTHY OF SPECIFIC STATUS
(ASTERACEAE: HELIANTHEAE)**

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ABSTRACT

Rudbeckia nitida var. *texana* is judged to be specifically distinct from the typical variety of *R. nitida* and is therefore elevated in rank as *R. texana*.

KEY WORDS: Systematics, *Rudbeckia*, Asteraceae, southeastern United States, endangered species.

Rudbeckia nitida Nutt. is a member of *R.* sect. *Macrocline* Torrey & Gray, and as treated by Perdue (1962), consists of two varieties. The typical variety occurs in Alabama, Florida and Georgia and *R. nitida* var. *texana* Perdue is known from Louisiana and eastern Texas. Recent phenetic analyses support the elevation of *R. nitida* var. *texana* to specific rank (Cox & Urbatsch 1988 and in prep.). The purpose of this publication is to validate this new name as expeditiously as possible in order that it might be used in various forthcoming publications concerning this taxon.

***Rudbeckia texana* (Perdue) Cox & Urbatsch, stat. nov.** BASIONYM: *Rudbeckia nitida* Nutt. var. *texana* Perdue, *Rhodora* 64:328. 1962. TYPE: UNITED STATES. Texas: Chambers Co., in prairie along railroad, 6 miles S of Stowell, 15 May 1945, *Shinners 7710* (HOLOTYPE: SMU!).

Rudbeckia texana sporadically occurs in southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana in prairies and pine flatwoods along wet railways and roadside rights-of-way. *Rudbeckia nitida* has an allopatric distribution in wet to moist acidic clearings, flatwoods, savannas and swales in the longleaf pine hills of Alabama, Georgia and Florida. It is reported to be an endangered species (Kral 1983). *Rudbeckia texana* differs from *R. nitida* in having wider and shorter basal leaves, appressed palae apices and longer receptacles (cones). In *R. nitida*, the apices of the palea are reflexed at least during the flowering period.

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