

A NEW VARIETY OF *PRUNUS RIVULARIS* (ROSACEAE) FOR TEXAS

Marshall F. Enquist

Plant Resources Center, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78713 U.S.A.

ABSTRACT

Recent collections from the central Edwards Plateau reveal a pubescent variety of *Prunus rivularis* Scheele, here described as *Prunus rivularis* var. *pubescens* var. nov. *Prunus murrayana* Palmer, heretofore considered an uncommon Trans-Pecos Texas endemic, is placed in synonymy with the new variety.

KEY WORDS: Rosaceae, *Prunus rivularis*, *Prunus murrayana*, Texas, systematics, nomenclature

DISCUSSION

From the time of the author's first collection of the new variety, in Edwards County on March 22, 1997, it was apparent that it was merely a pubescent variety of *Prunus rivularis* Scheele. It was also apparent that the pubescent variety, here described as *Prunus rivularis* var. *pubescens* Enquist, was probably identical to *Prunus murrayana* Palmer (1929) and warranted further study. Further search revealed the pubescent variety of *P. rivularis* in Edwards, Crockett, Sutton, Schleicher, Concho, Tom Green, Irion, Coke, and Sterling counties (Figures 1 and 2). The search also revealed plants very similar to the new taxon in Scurry, Taylor, Nolan, and Callahan counties, but these are here excluded for various reasons. The population in Nolan county is on the same site as a dilapidated farmhouse and has fruit approximately twice the usual size, creating the possibility that it may have been selected for fruit size from another population of indeterminate locality and transplanted to Nolan County. The populations in Scurry and Taylor counties have essentially eglandular calyx lobes and may be introgressed with *Prunus gracilis* Engelm. & A. Gray. The Callahan County collection was made in late summer, the timing precluding examination of the flowers for signs of introgression with *P. gracilis*, which is common in the vicinity.

Prunus murrayana has been considered a localized endemic largely confined to the igneous soils of the Davis Mountains of Jeff Davis County in West Texas, but with a few outliers on limestone soils in the Glass and Del Norte Mountains of Brewster County (Powell 1988; Simpson 1988; Vines 1976; Correll & Johnston 1970). The

known populations of *P. murrayana*, all west of the Pecos River, have never been known to set fruit (Simpson 1988; Vines 1976; Correll & Johnston 1970), and seemingly reproduce only vegetatively, by root suckers. The recently discovered populations of the pubescent variety of *P. rivularis* are all east of the Pecos River and all set fruit in the spring and summer of 1997. In one case, on Highway 864 in the southeast corner of Schleicher County, the fruit-set was prolific, with many hundreds, if not thousands, of ripe plums in a single colony. The differences in the fruiting abilities of the Davis Mountains populations and the central Edwards Plateau populations are probably due to the fact that the Davis Mountains receive little to no rainfall in early spring. The bulk of the rainfall in the Davis Mountains comes in July and August, with the remainder of the year being dry (pers. comm. with Mike Powell, SRSC). Obviously, this rain cycle provides moisture too late for flowering and fruit-set in the *P. murrayana* populations. The central Edwards Plateau, on the other hand, usually receives sufficient rainfall from February to April to ensure successful flowering and fruit-set of its plum populations.

When Palmer (1929) described *Prunus murrayana*, he commented: "Although I have not seen the fruit, this species is so distinct in the character of its inflorescence and in the pubescence from any other Plums with which I am acquainted that I venture to describe it as new. It is perhaps most closely related to *Prunus rivularis* Scheele, which it resembles in habit of growth, but from which it is well distinguished by the characters mentioned in the above description."

The apparent differences between *Prunus rivularis* and *P. murrayana* result from descriptions that, like the blind men describing the elephant, describe only limited aspects of the entities' characters. For example, the leaves of *P. rivularis* have been described as conduplicate (Correll & Johnston 1970), but this character is not mentioned in Palmer's description of *P. murrayana*. The discrepancy might lead some to conclude that *P. murrayana* does not have conduplicate leaves. The reality is that both taxa produce strongly conduplicate leaves on the new shoots of that year's growth, particularly when they are exposed to full sun. But when the leaves grow in partial or full shade, both taxa produce a more flattened leaf blade. Similarly, the young branchlets of *P. murrayana* are described as greenish-brown (Palmer 1928) while the young branchlets of *P. rivularis* have been described as chestnut-brown (Correll & Johnston 1970). Once again, the descriptions seem to indicate a difference, but the reality is that both taxa produce both types of coloration, with first-year branchlets exposed to full sunlight being reddish-brown and branchlets in the shade being a light greenish-brown. The petioles of both taxa show similar variation in color according to exposure to the sun. Other apparent differences result from minor oversights. Palmer described the petioles of *P. murrayana* as eglandular, which could be construed as a character providing a distinction from *P. rivularis*. However, the only collection with mature leaves mentioned in the type description of *P. murrayana* (Palmer 34562), has leaves with petioles that range from eglandular to glandular, with the latter showing one or two prominent glands near the apex.

After the descriptions of *Prunus murrayana* and *P. rivularis* are brought into parallel, the remaining differentiating characters are essentially one character: pubescence. *Prunus murrayana* has (1) pubescent pedicels, (2) pubescence around the full circumference of the petioles and (3) pubescence on the epidermis of first year branches, sometimes retained to a lesser degree into the second year. These are the

same characters which distinguish the new variety of *P. rivularis* (Figure 3). Palmer was correct in noting that this taxon "... is perhaps most closely related to *P. rivularis* Scheele." The present author believes *P. murrayana* is probably identical to the new variety of *P. rivularis*, but chooses to give the variety a new, more descriptive name. Because *P. murrayana* is imperfectly typified (no fruit seen or described) there is a possibility that *P. murrayana* could one day be resurrected if it does produce fruit and they are distinctive. In that case, the pubescent variety of *P. rivularis* would no longer have a name. The new name negates that possibility.

Both varieties of *Prunus rivularis* are thicket formers that expand the size of the colony by root suckers. It is not possible to distinguish between the varieties based on general appearance at a distance. It is necessary to approach closely and examine the branchlets for pubescence. Both varieties prefer creekside habitats and dry washes, but also do well on fencelines well away from creeks. Colony size is highly variable, ranging from as little as 2 meters by 2 meters, up to 5 meters by 40 meters along rights-of-way.

The fruit of both varieties of *Prunus rivularis* are cherry red and white-dotted, with a bloom varying from light to heavy. The fruit are almost orbicular, usually being slightly longer than wide. Fruit size in both varieties ranges from 13 mm long by 12 mm wide to 18 mm long by 18 mm wide. The fruits of *P. rivularis* var. *rivularis* are usually described as being quite bitter. However, this reputation is due to the fact that the fruits of var. *rivularis* are prone to fall from the tree when they are red, but not fully ripe. The red (but unripe) fruits are quickly eaten by nocturnal mammals, leaving only a gnawed pit in the morning. This sequence of events has apparently prevented botanists from obtaining truly ripe fruit. If the red fruit are taken from the tree and set aside for a few days to a week, they develop a deep red to purple color and become soft, at which time their flesh is sweet and edible, or, at the least, a good deal less bitter and unpalatable. The same is true of the fruit of var. *pubescens*. It is likely that the indigenous tribes of Texas were aware of this and took advantage of the fact. Although it is certainly possible that the Davis Mountains populations are relictual, it is also within the realm of possibility that those populations are in their present location as a result of human transport.

PRUNUS RIVULARIS Scheele, *Linnaea*, 21:594. 1848. TYPE: U.S.A. Texas: *F. Lindheimer* (No collection number, date or locality given). Wight (1915), comparing the Lindheimer specimens at MO with the information from Lindheimer cited by Scheele, states that *Lindheimer* 274 at MO (Texas: Comal Co., New Braunfels, 1846 [not seen]) is "apparently a duplicate of the type."

The following description of *Prunus rivularis* var. *rivularis* is partially based on material from central Texas (including the area of the type locality). A more general description of *P. rivularis* var. *rivularis* (as *P. rivularis*) can be found in Vines (1976), but it is considered useful in the present case to compare populations of the two varieties from the same region.

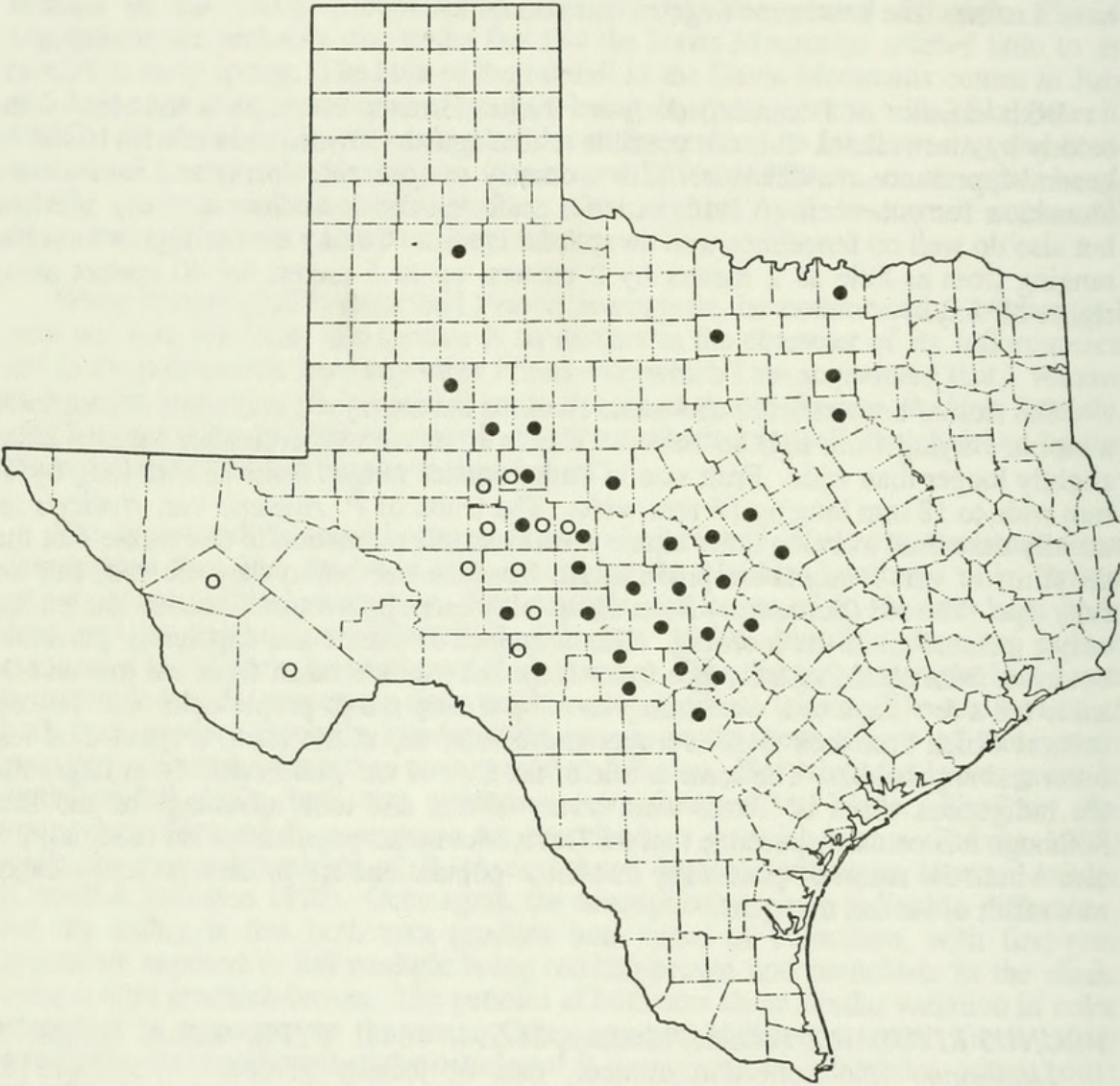


Figure 1. Documented ranges of *Prunus rivularis* var. *rivularis* (solid dots) and *P. rivularis* var. *pubescens* (circles) in Texas.

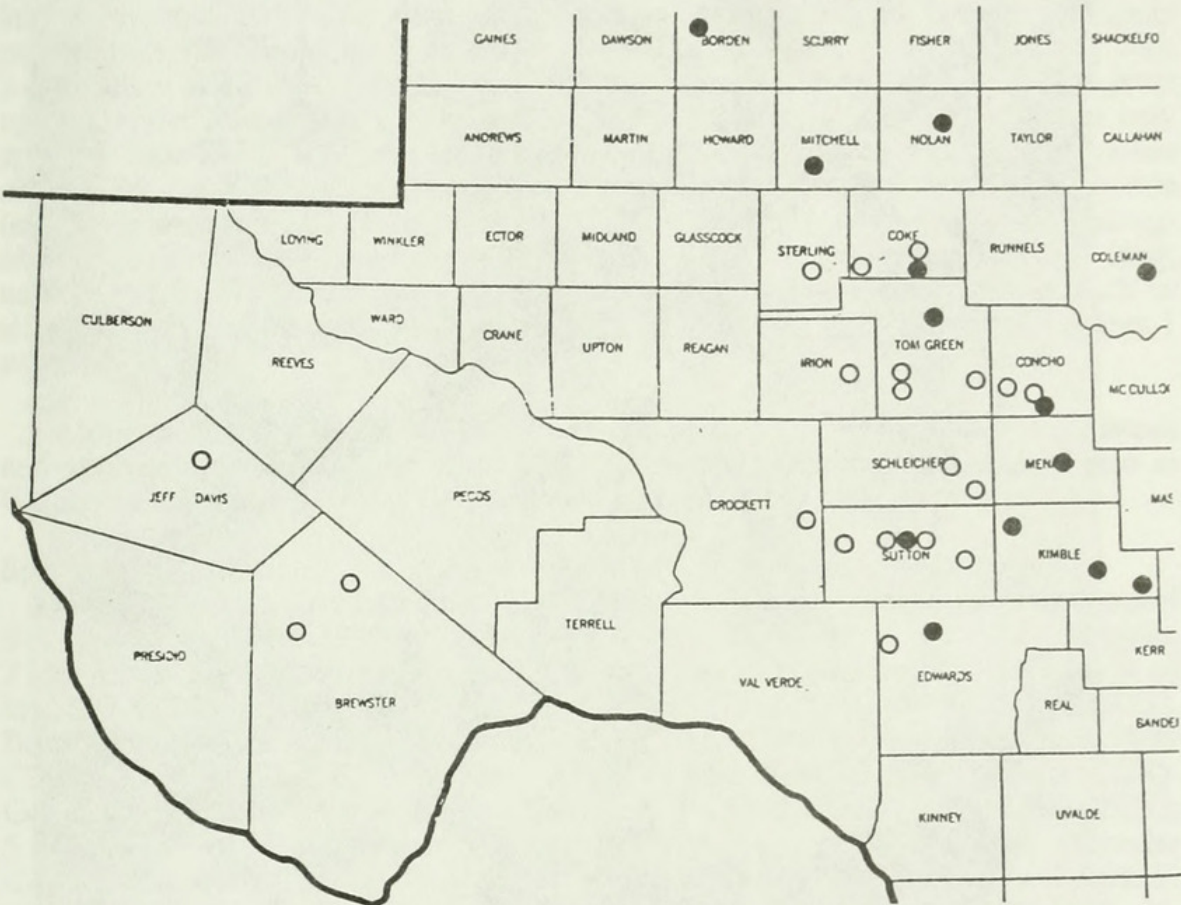


Figure 2. Detail of ranges of *Prunus rivularis* var. *rivularis* (solid dots) and *P. rivularis* var. *pubescens* (circles).



Figure 3. Detail of leaves and inflorescence of *Prunus rivularis* var. *pubescens* (from Enquist 3379).

PRUNUS RIVULARIS Scheele var. *RIVULARIS*

Shrub 1-4(-5) m tall, forming dense thickets; bark gray; first-year branchlets glabrous, pale green to reddish-brown; stipules linear, 3-6 mm long, glandular to glandular serrate, sometimes 2- to 3-parted; leaves lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 5-8 (-9) cm long, 2-3(-4) cm wide, acuminate to acute at apex, cuneate or rounded at base, margin glandular-serrate, 8-11(-12) teeth/cm, leaves in full sun strongly conduplicate, leaves in shade flattened, green and glabrous above, paler beneath and slightly pubescent (sometimes densely so while young); petioles 8-12 mm long, usually with 2-4 glands at apex, pale green to reddish-brown, usually pubescent only in trough on upper surface; flowers 1 to 4, 8-12 mm across; pedicels slender, glabrous or very sparsely pubescent, 7-12 mm long; calyx sparingly pubescent outside; calyx lobes oblong to ovate-oblong, glandular-ciliate, shorter than tube, pubescent within (especially near base), erect or spreading to finally reflexed; petals obovate to oblong-obovate, 5-8 mm long, short-clawed; fruit globose to subglobose, 13-18 mm long, usually red, rarely yellow; stone oblong to subglobose, 8-12 mm long, smooth or slightly reticulate (description based on collections depicted as solid dots in Figures 1 and 2).

Along creeks, dry washes, roadsides, breaks in slopes, from the Edwards Plateau and north-central Texas to the base of the panhandle, fruiting June-August; also in Oklahoma and Kansas (Vines 1976; Stephens 1973).

Specimens examined:

U.S.A. Texas: Bandera Co.: 18 mi W of Medina on Medina River at Samuel Sutton Ranch, 13 Mar 1949, *D.L. Jameson* 48-480 (TEX). Bexar Co.: San Antonio, 7 Mar 1962, *L.J. Bottimer* Z3 (TEX). Borden Co.: Caprock breaks, 2.97 mi N of int. 180 & 1054, 5 Apr 1997, *M. Enquist* 3411 (BRIT, GH, MO, TAES, TEX, US). Burnet Co.: Ravine 3 mi N of Burnet, to 3 m high, 6 Jun 1945, *R. McVaugh* 7099 (TEX). Coleman Co.: US 84 at Santa Anna, 19 Mar 1966, *S. Dieckmeier* 4 (TEX). Comal Co.: Comanche Spring, New Braunfels, Jul 1851, *F. Lindheimer* 790 (TEX); 5 1/2 mi SE of Fischer's Store, 27 Mar 1948, *V.L. Cory* 54036 (TEX). Concho Co.: Bluffs along Concho River at Paint Rock, 29 Jun 1946, *D.S. Correll & H.B. Correll* 12926 (TEX); Eden, 0.7 mi S on 83 from int. of 87 & 83, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist* 3407 (BRIT, GH, MO, TAES, TEX, US). Coryell Co.: 6 mi E of Gatesville, 4 Apr 1966, *S. Jackson* 22 (TEX). Dallas Co.: Stults Prairie, SW corner of Coit Road and Belt Line Road, 28 May 1959, *D.S. Correll & I.M. Johnston* 22450 (TEX). Edwards Co.: Upper Nueces River, 11 Sep 1929, *B.C. Tharp* 44371 (TEX). Ellis Co.: 4.5 mi S of Ferris, W of US 75, 17 May 1945, *R. McVaugh* 6913 (TEX). Floyd Co.: Along White River, 7 mi S of Floydada, 10 Jul 1946, *D.S. Correll* 13118 (TEX). Gillespie Co.: Near Fredricksburg, Sep 1985, *J. Lipe s.n.* (TEX). Grayson Co.: Sherman, Sherman Lake, 15 Jun 1939, *B.C. Tharp* 44375 (TEX). Hill Co.: 7 mi NE of Hillsboro on limestone ledges, 2 Apr 1957, *D.S. Correll & C. Schweinfurth* 15499 (TEX). Jack Co.: Ft. Richardson State Park, Park Road 61 at low-water crossing, 6 Jul 1993, *W.R. Carr* 12869 (TEX). Kendall Co.: 3 2/3 mi E of Sisterdale, 24 Jul 1944, *V.L. Cory* 45258 (TEX). Kerr Co.: 13.5 mi NE of Kerrville on Hwy 16, 2 Apr 1974, *J. Smith* 6 (TEX). Kimble Co.: 12 mi NW of Harper, Coffey Ranch on White Oak Creek, 13 May 1947, *R. McVaugh* 8305 (TEX); 15 mi W of Junction, near Bois d' Arc, 10 ft tall, 1 Apr 1947, *H.R. Reed* 6 (TEX). Lampasas Co.: Mt. View School, 12 Jun 1941, *Game, Fish and Oyster*

Commissioner 1009 (TEX). Llano Co.: Enchanted Rock, 10 Jun 1930, *B.C. Tharp & E. Whitehouse s.n.* (TEX). Menard Co.: Below summit of plateau 1 mi S of Menard, 3 m high, 12 May 1947, *R. McVaugh 8284* (TEX). Mitchell Co.: On 163, 1.4 mi S of int. 163 & 2183, 5 Apr 1997, *M. Enquist 3409* (BRIT,GH,MO,TAES,TEX,UVST). San Saba Co.: Leonard Ranch 10 mi S of Richland Springs, 26 Mar 1966, *K. Calhoun 5* (TEX). Sutton Co.: S side of Sonora, 1.9 mi E of int. 277 & 479, 23 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3373* (BRIT,GH,MO,TAES,TEX,NY). Tom Green Co.: Red Creek crossing of Hwy 277, 15 Apr 1951, *J.C. Johnston 615* (TEX). Travis Co.: N side of Slaughter Creek in Searight Park, 7 Jul 1992, *W.R. Carr w/ Paul Turner 12117* (TEX).

PRUNUS RIVULARIS Scheele var. **PUBESCENS** Enquist, var. nov. TYPE: U.S.A. Texas: Edwards County, Hwy. 277, 5.2 miles south of intersection of 277 and 55, east side of road, north of roadcut, 23 Mar 1997, *Marshall F. Enquist 3379* (HOLOTYPE: TEX; Isotypes: ANSM,BRIT,GH,MO,OKL,SRSC,TAES,US.)

Prunus murrayana Palmer, J. Arnold Arbor. 10:38. 1929. TYPE: U.S.A. Texas: Jeff Davis County, Near head of Big Aguja Canyon, 21 Apr 1928, *E.J. Palmer 33424* (HOLOTYPE: GH!; Isotype: GH!).

Pruno rivulari Scheele typico similis sed differt petiolis ramulis juvenibus et pedicellis corymborum pubescentibus.

Shrub 1-4(-5) m tall, forming dense thickets; bark gray; *branchlets densely pubescent the first season, becoming gray and glabrous or retaining some of the pubescence the second season*, first year branchlets pale green to reddish brown; stipules linear, 3-6 mm long, glandular-serrate, sometimes 2- to 3-parted; leaves lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 4-7(-8) cm long, 15-28 mm wide, acute or acuminate at apex, cuneate to rounded at the base, margin glandular serrate, 8-10(-11) teeth/cm, leaves in full sun strongly conduplicate, leaves in shade more flattened, green and slightly pubescent above, paler and pilose-pubescent beneath; petioles 8-15(-19) mm long, glandless or with 1-3 glands at apex, pale green to reddish-brown, *densely pubescent*; flowers 1 to 4, 8-12 mm across; *pedicels slender, sparingly to densely pubescent*, 8-12 mm long; calyx sparingly to densely pubescent outside, the oblong-lanceolate lobes obtuse, pubescent within and often densely hispid-pubescent on the outer surface; petals obovate, 5-8 mm long, short-clawed; fruit globose to subglobose, 13-18 mm long, red, stone elongate and pointed at both ends to subglobose, 8-12 mm long, smooth to slightly reticulate.

Along creeks, dry washes, roadsides, and breaks in slope, from central Edwards Plateau west to Davis Mountains, fruiting June-August.

Specimens examined:

U.S.A. Texas: Brewster Co.: Narrow canyon 9 mi SE of Alpine, 12 Mar 1992, *A.M. Powell & S.A. Powell 5814* (SRSC); In canyon on E side of Mt. Ord, Del Norte Mountains, 7 Apr 1947, *L.C. Hinckley & George Brown 3813* (SRSC); Jailhouse Canyon on Iron Mountain Ranch in Glass Mountains, both sides of creekbed in limestone, 22 Mar 1994, *P. Manning 728* (SRSC); Limestone canyon on E side of Mt. Ord, Del Norte Mountains, Gage Estate, 14 Jul 1947, *B. Warnock 6427*

(SRSC); 10 mi SE of Alpine, canyon E of Mt. Ord, on sandstone talus, 23 May 1949, *R. McVaugh 10613* (TEX); Canyon E of Mt. Ord, 7 Apr 1947, *R. McVaugh 7873* (GH). Coke Co.: Hwy. 208, N of San Angelo, about 150 yards N of Tom Green/Coke line, W side of road, 5 Apr 1997, *M. Enquist 3419* (BRIT, GH, MO, SRSC, TAES, TEX); Hwy. 208, 2.5 mi N of Tom Green/Coke line, E side of road at culvert, 5 Apr 1997, *M. Enquist 3417* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, UVST); Highway 87, SW corner of Coke Co., NW of San Angelo at crossing of Hwy. 87 over Walnut Creek, 30 yards over fence, E side, 5 Apr 1997, *M. Enquist 3408* (ANSM, BRIT, GH, MO, NMC, SRSC, TAES, TEX, US). Concho Co.: On 87, 8.8 mi W of int. of 83 and 87 in Eden, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3405* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, US), 4 Jul 1997, *M. Enquist 3503* (BRIT, TAES, TEX); Hwy. 87, 1.6 mi W of int. of 83 and 87 in Eden, S side of road, 40 yards over fence, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3406* (BH, COLO, F, HPC, KANU, LSU, NCU, RM, SHST, SWT, UC, UTEP), 4 Jul 1997, *M. Enquist 3502* (BH, COLO, F, HPC, KANU, LSU, NCU, RM, SHST, SWT, UC, UTEP). Crockett Co.: Off access road along I-10, 2.3 mi W of Crockett/Sutton line, N side of road, 23 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3376* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, US), 29 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3392* (BH, COLO, F, KANU, LSU, NCU, RM, SWT, UC, UTEP, UVST), 20 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3492* (ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, UVST). Edwards Co.: 22.4 mi N of Loma Alta on Hwy. 277 or 5.2 mi S of int. 277 & 55, E side of road, just N of long roadcut, 22 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3362* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, US), 23 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3379* (ANSM, BRIT, GH, MO, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, US), 18 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3490* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, UVST), 28 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3501* (COLO, F, KANU, LSU, NCU, RM, SWT, UC, UTEP). Irion Co.: Mertzon, on Hwy. 67, 0.7 mi N of int. of 67 & 2469, at bridge, W side in ravine, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3403* (ANSM, BRIT, GH, MEXU, NMC, OKL, SRSC, TAES, TEX, US, UVST). Jeff Davis Co.: Near Buffalo Trails Scout Camp, in Million Dollar Canyon, 2 May 1987, *J. Larke L-609* (SRSC); Upper reaches of Limpia Canyon, Wild Rose Pass, Davis Mountains, *B. Warnock 6427* (SRSC); Buffalo Trails Scout Camp, at end of Highway 1832, in Little Aguja Canyon, 28 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3500* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, NY, OKL, TAES, TEX, US, UVST); Along dry rocky bed and banks of ravine, in canyon, near Ft. Davis, 13 Jun 1928, *E.J. Palmer 34562* (GH); Rocky banks of ravine, near head of Big Aguja Canyon, Fowlkes' Ranch, Davis Mts., 21 Apr 1928, *E.J. Palmer 33424* (GH). Schleicher Co.: From int. of 864 & 1674 in Ft. McKavett, 3.4 mi SW on 864, E side of road on fenceline, 29 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3398* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, NY, OKL, TAES, TEX, US), 27 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3498* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, NMC, NY, OKL, TAES, TEX, US, UVST); From int. of 190 & 2084, 3.0 mi N on 2084, W side of road, 100 yards over fence under Live Oak tree line, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3400* (BH, F, HPC, KANU, RM, SHST, SWT, UC, UTEP). Sterling Co.: Near Sterling City, creekside, location withheld to protect landowner, 19 Jul 1997, *M. Enquist 3525* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, NY, OKL, TAES, TEX, US). Sutton Co.: On I-10, E of Sonora, 2.6 mi E of int. 467 & 864 (at exit 404), N side of I-10 on fenceline and extending 20 yards into ROW, 27 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3497* (BRIT, GH, MO, TAES, TEX, UVST); 34.1 mi W of int. of I-10 & 83 in Junction or 1.3 mi E of int. of I-10 & Baker Road on Hwy. 3130, 23 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3372* (ANSM, ARIZ, BRIT, GH, MEXU, MO, NMC, NY, SRSC, TAES, TEX, US), 28 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3385* (BH, F, HPC, KANU, RM, SHST, SWT, UTEP), 20 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3495* (ANSM, ARIZ,

BRIT,GH,MEXU,MO,OKL,NY,SRSC,TAES,TEX,UVST); From int. of 479 & 277 on the S side of Sonora, 0.6-0.7 mi E on 864, N side of road on corner, 23 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3375* (ANSM,ARIZ,BRIT,GH,MEXU,MO,NMC,NY,TAES,TEX,US,UVST), 29 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3391* (BH,COLO,F,HPC,KANU,LSU,NCU,RM,SHST,SWT,UC,UTEP); From int. of 479 & 277 on the S side of Sonora, 3.2 miles E on 864, S side of road on fenceline, 23 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3374* (BRIT,GH,MO,NMC,OKL,NY,SRSC,TAES,TEX), 29 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3389* (BH,COLO,F,HPC,KANU,LSU,NCU,RM,SHST,SWT,UC,UTEP), 20 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3494* (BH,COLO,F,HPC,KANU,LSU,NCU,RM,SHST,SWT,UC,UTEP); From int. of I-10 & Caverns of Sonora Road, 8.0 mi S on Caverns of Sonora Road, in ravine 150-200 yards off road to E, on Valiant Ranch, 23 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3378* (ANSM,ARIZ,BRIT,GH,MEXU,MO,NMC,NY,SRSC,TAES,TEX,UVST). Tom Green Co.: Christoval, from int. of N end of Loop 110 & 277, about 100 yards N on 277, E side on slope above road cut, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3402* (ANSM,ARIZ,BRIT,GH,MEXU,MO,NMC,OKL,SRSC,TAES,TEX,US), 27 Jun 1997, *M. Enquist 3499* (ANSM,ARIZ,BRIT,GH,MEXU,MO,NMC,NY,OKL,SRSC,TAES,TEX); Christoval, from int. of 277 & S end of Loop 110, 0.15 mi NE on Loop 100 to concrete bridge over dry wash, W side of bridge, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3401* (ANSM,ARIZ,BRIT,GH,MEXU,MO,NMC,NY,SRSC,TAES,TEX,US); On E side of county, 7.5 mi S on Ft. McKavett Road from int. of 87 & Ft. McKavett Road, W side of road on fenceline, 30 Mar 1997, *M. Enquist 3404* (ANSM,ARIZ,BRIT,GH,MEXU,MO,NMC,NY,OKL,SRSC,TAES,TEX).

EPILOGUE

The recent discovery of a widely dispersed population of this taxon distributed over a well-traveled and highly populated area illustrates the dangers inherent in poorly researched evaluations of the "rarity" of taxonomic entities. Extreme caution in such judgments is well advised and the following maxim should always be kept in mind -- Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

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