

**PRIONOSCIADIUM SARAVIKI (APIACEAE): A NEW SPECIES FROM THE
SIERRA MADRE OCCIDENTAL, MEXICO**

Joseph E. Laferrière

Herbario, CEAMISH, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, 62210
Cuernavaca, Morelos, MEXICO

ABSTRACT

Prionosciadium saraviki is a previously undescribed species of the family Apiaceae. It is related to *Prionosciadium townsendii* but different from that species in several respects, primarily its yellow flowers, smaller fruits, and dentate rather than crenate leaves.

KEY WORDS: Apiaceae, *Prionosciadium*, México, Chihuahua, systematics

RESUMEN

Prionosciadium saraviki es nueva especie de la familia de las Apiáceas. Es emparentada a *Prionosciadium townsendii* pero difiere por tener flores amarillas, frutas más pequeñas, y hojas dentadas en vez de crenadas.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Apiáceas, *Prionosciadium*, México, Chihuahua, sistematica

Prionosciadium saraviki Laferrière is a previously undescribed species of the carrot family, called "saravique" or "saraviqui" by the Mountain Pima Indians of the Sierra Madre of Chihuahua, México. The plant grows in moist, shaded locations in its native habitat, which is a pine/oak forest with sabino (*Cupressus lusitanica* Mill.) frequent along creekbanks. The plant is valued for its edible root, which is white with a thin, papery, copper-colored periderm. The Mountain Pima scrape off the skin and stick the remainder of the root directly into the fire to roast it.

As with many other umbellifers, saravique is a semelparous perennial. The first four or five years of its life, it produces only one or two leaves, each of which is up to 90 cm across. When conditions are right, it forms a flowering stalk up to 3 m high, bearing hundreds of tiny yellow flowers. During 1987, a year of adequate rainfall, approximately 20-30% of the total population was in bloom; the following year, a region was subject to an extreme drought, and as a result the only individual blooming

was one located in a permanent spring. The entire plant (including the root) possesses a very pleasant aromatic fragrance. Saravique is becoming rare in its native habitat due to overutilization and overgrazing.

In previous publications (Laferrière 1992, 1994a,b; Laferrière, *et al.* 1991), I referred to the plant as *Prionosciadium townsendii* Rose. Further examination, however, reveals saravique to be different from that species in several respects, primarily its yellow flowers, smaller fruits, and dentate leaves. *Prionosciadium townsendii* has purple flowers and crenate leaves. The Nabogame collections are therefore described below as a new member of the Apiaceae.

Prionosciadium saraviki Laferr., *spec. nov.* TYPUS: MEXICO. Chihuahua: Municipio Temósachi, 2 km N of Nabogame, in spring on grassy sunlit hillside, 18 km NNW of Yepachi, 28° 30' W, 108° 35' N, 1900 m, in flower, 27 Jul 1988, *Laferrière 1569* (HOLOTYPE: ARIZ; Isotypes: ANSM,MEXU,UC).

E *Prionosciadium townsendii* Rose floribus luteis, foliis dentatis et fructibus 4-8 mm longis differt.

Plant semelparous, perennial, to 150 cm tall when fertile, bearing a pleasant aroma. Roots tuberous, with a pure white interior and a thin, papery, copper-colored periderm. Stems slightly reddish, waxy, to 4 cm in diam at base. Basal leaves of vegetative specimens 1-2, pentoid to deltoid in outline, pinnate, winged between leaflets, to 90 cm long, to 80 cm wide; leaflets pinnately lobed, the lobes lanceolate, dentate; petiole and rachis round, hollow. Upper cauline leaves opposite or whorled, ternate or simple, with short, broad sheaths. Inflorescence of several verticils of peduncles; peduncles slender, 1.5-6.0 cm long, subtended by a pair of leaves, scaberulous at the summit; involucre wanting, or of a single filiform bract 5-10 mm long; involucre of several filiform bractlets 5-8 mm long, longer than the flowers but shorter than the fruit; fertile rays 8-16, spreading or divaricate, subequal, 1.5-4.0 cm long; fertile pedicels 2-5, 3-7 mm long; calyx teeth obsolete; flowers yellow; ovary glabrous; petals inrolled at anthesis; anthers medially attached. Fruit oblong, truncate at the apex, retuse at the base, 4-8 mm long, 3-5 mm across, the dorsal ribs prominent, the lateral broadly thin-winged, the wings narrower than the body; oil tubes 2 or 3. Seeds nearly terete.

Paratypes: 2 km N of Nabogame, same individual as holotype, in fruit, 20 Oct 1988, *Laferrière 2156* (ARIZ); Nabogame, vegetative leaves only, 11 Jul 1988, 1800 m, *Laferrière 1504* (ANSM,ARIZ,MEXU); Nabogame, in flower, 1800 m, 28 July 1987, *Laferrière 535* (CHAPA,TEX,UC).

LITERATURE CITED

- Laferrière, J.E. 1992. Cultural and environmental response to drought among the Mountain Pima. *Ecol. Food Nutr.* 28(1-2):1-9.
———. 1994a. Vegetation and flora of the Mountain Pima village of Nabogame, Chihuahua, México. *Phytologia* 77:102-140.

- _____. 1994b. A dynamic non-linear optimization analysis of Mountain Pima subsistence patterns. *Hum. Ecol.* 23(1):1-28.
- _____, C.W. Weber, & E.A. Kohlhepp. 1991a. Use and nutritional composition of some traditional Mountain Pima plant foods. *J. Ethnobiol.* 11(1):93-114.



Laferriere, Joseph E. 1996. "Prionosciadium saraviki (Apiaceae): A new species from the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico." *Phytologia* 81, 121–123.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/46897>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/175835>

Holding Institution

New York Botanical Garden, LuEsther T. Mertz Library

Sponsored by

The LuEsther T Mertz Library, the New York Botanical Garden

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Phytologia

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.