Wurdack, Certamen Melastomataceis

Vera Cruz, <u>Asplund 19452</u>; Mera, <u>Asplund 19282</u>, <u>19575</u>, <u>19600</u>). Two collections, both with upper leaf surface pubescence as in <u>O. quadrisulca</u>, needing future evaluation in this complex are <u>Schnell 658</u>, from Valle Escondida, Cartago, Costa Rica (cauline pubescence appressed, flowers 5-merous, ovary 4-celled with 2-3 glandular setulae on each lobe) and <u>Vargas 18447</u>, from Quispicanchis, Cuzco, Peru (cauline pubescence appressed, leaves beneath glabrous on the veinlets and surface, flowers 4-merous).

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Harold N. Moldenke

VERBENA RECTILOBA Moldenke, sp. nov.

Herba radicans; caulibus prostratis obtuse tetragonis obscure pilosulis vel glabratis, angulis longitudinaliter porcatis; foliis numerosis valde incisis, laciniis uniformiter linearibus rectis saepe bi- vel trifurcatis minutissime strigillosis vel glabratis ad apicem subulatis; inflorescentiis spicatis terminalibus multifloris ubique minutissime adpresso-strigillosis; calicibus l cm. longis; corollis violaceis, tubo non exsertis.

Creeping herb; stems prostrate, apparently to about 50 cm. long, the tips ascending or erect, obtusely tetragonal, very obscurely and microscopically scattered-pilosulous or glabrate, the angles somewhat ridged; principal internodes elongate, mostly 4-6 cm. long; leaves decussate-opposite, numerous throughout the stems and on short erect branchlets, 3--5.5 cm. long, 2-4 cm. wide, deeply dissected to the midrib, the lobes linear, 1--1.5 mm. wide, very uniform throughout, not at all widened at the base, often bi- or trifurcate with the branches exactly similar, subulate-tipped, perfectly straight, microscopically and very sparsely strigillose or glabrous, the very slender linear petiole 1--2 cm. long and only very slightly narrower than the leaf-divisions; inflorescence spicate, terminal, apparently to about 9 cm. long, rather many-flowered, but not especially dense, microscopically white-strigillose throughout with closely appressed white hairs; calyx cylindric, about 1 cm. long, microscopically appressedstrigillose with antrorse hairs, the rim 5-apiculate, the apiculations 2-3 mm. long, irregular, erect or very slightly curved at the tip, 2 longer than the other 3; corolla violet, the tube about 1 cm. long, not exserted from the calyx-tube, the limb about 9 mm. wide.

The type of this most distinct and beautiful species was collected by A. Krapovickas, C. L. Cristóbal, and C. Quarín (no. 22825) at Rosario do Sul, on the sandy banks of the Rio Santa María, in the municipality of Rosario do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, on January 20, 1973, and is deposited in my personal herbarium at Plainfield, New Jersey.

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