

Wiegand in the *Flora of Indiana* by Deam (whose specimens I have examined) is merely one of the many growth forms of the species. Browsed or mowed plants may produce large-leaved shoots with mostly axillary heads. The type of *Aster missouriensis* Britton, figured in Britton and Brown's *Illustrated Flora*, ed. 1, 3: 378, 1898, is such an atypical plant.—LLOYD H. SHINNERS, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

ASTER COERULESCENS THE SAME AS A. PRAEALTUS.—The late Dr. K. M. Wiegand, in his account of *Aster paniculatus* and some of its relatives (RHODORA 35: 16–38, 1933) and, following him, Dr. Arthur Cronquist in his revision of the western North American species of *Aster* centering about *A. foliaceus* Lindl. (Amer. Midl. Nat. 29: 429–468, 1943) use the name *A. coerulescens* DC. for a very common and widespread species of the western United States, occurring eastward in the north as far as Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, and southward in the west to New Mexico and Arizona. Both authors assign it to Texas, primarily on the basis of the type collection, which was made by Berlandier “in Mexici districtibus orientalibus provinciae Texas.” No date is given in De Candolle's original description (Prodromus 5: 235, 1836), but probable isotypes (despite differences in collection numbers) are dated November and December, 1828. According to Dr. S. W. Geiser's account (*Naturalists of the Frontier*, ed. 2, pp. 30–54, 1948), Berlandier accompanied a group of Comanche Indians and Mexican officers on a hunting expedition from November 19 to December 18, 1828, starting at San Antonio (“Bexar”) and making a circle tour north and west through present Kendall, Kerr, Bandera, Uvalde, Medina, and Bexar Counties, above and near the southeastern escarpment of the Edwards Plateau in south-central Texas. This was in the “eastern districts of the Texas province of Mexico” of Berlandier's day. The common and conspicuous wild *Aster* of that area is *A. praealtus* Poir. (or one of the three varieties credited to the area by Wiegand; I question their validity). No species of the *A. coerulescens* type *sensu* Wiegand and Cronquist is known to grow there. The nearest region in which so-called *A. coerulescens* may occur (no specimens are at hand) is in Trans-

Pecos Texas, a region geographically distant (as viewed from Dallas, which is about a third as far from El Paso as is Ithaca, New York), geologically unrelated, and floristically distinct from the area of the type locality of De Candolle's species. Probable isotypes in the U. S. National Herbarium and the Gray Herbarium are clearly *A. praealtus*, with characteristic leaf-texture and venation. I do not concur in Dr. Wiegand's opinion (l. c., p. 27) that Gray was in error in assigning the specimen in his possession to *A. praealtus* (under its former name, *A. salicifolius*). The earliest name for the species erroneously called *A. coerulescens* is apparently *A. hesperius* Gray, *Synoptical Flora* 1 (pt. 2): 192, 1884: "Damp soil and along streams, S. Colorado and New Mexico to Arizona and S. California. Has been variously taken for *A. longifolius*, *Novi-Belgii*, *aestivus*, &c., and coll. by Wright, Greene, Rothrock, Cleveland, Parish, Lemmon, &c."—LLOYD H. SHINNERS, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas.

CHENOPODIUM HYBRIDUM L., var. **Standleyanum** (Aellen), comb. nov. *C. gigantospermum* Aellen, var. *Standleyanum* Aellen in Fedde, Repert. Spec. Nov. xxvi. 147 (1929) and *C. Standleyanum* Aellen, l. c. 153 (1929).

Surely *Chenopodium gigantospermum* Aellen, the commonest American representative of Old World *C. hybridum*, differs from the latter only in its larger seeds. It is so like true *C. hybridum* that acute botanists from Pursh to Standley have detected no difference; neither can others who had compared the plants, except in size of seed. *C. gigantospermum* is properly called *C. hybridum* L., var. *gigantospermum* (Aellen) Rouleau in Nat. Canad. lxxi. 268 (1944). Its seeds are 1.5–2 mm. in diameter, the variety of wide range from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Var. *Standleyanum*, chiefly of the interior of the continent, has the seeds 2–3 mm. broad.—M. L. FERNALD.

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