

NOTES on TRADESCANTIA

T. diffusa Bush and T. pedicillata Celarier

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Bush (1904, 1905) described no less than 12 new species of Tradescantia from Texas. As was too often customary with Bush, several of these were described from single specimens. Anderson & Woodson (1935) retained four and reduced the others to synonymy with one exception: T. diffusa Bush was not mentioned.

In the course of examining specimens of T. occidentalis (Britton) Smyth during the past year I found seven examples of a Tradescantia which, although labeled T. occidentalis (sometimes by Anderson or Woodson) were not that species nor any other described in their monograph. They did, however, agree in most respects with Bush's description of his T. diffusa, differing mainly in their smaller stature. The plants had been collected from central Texas (northwest of Austin) south nearly to the Mexican border (Webb county) and thus included the location of Bush's specimen (San Antonio). One sheet was annotated by Anderson:

"These small plants from central and western Texas probably deserve nomenclatural recognition Other collections . . are much larger."

Celarier (1956) collected specimens of the supposed hybrid T. humilis X occidentalis northwest of Austin and subjected them to breeding experiments from which he concluded that they were not hybrids, or at least not recent ones, and deserved specific status as T. pedicillata Celarier. This taxon was accepted by Correll & Johnston (1970). These authors are careful to state when they have not examined material and it is to be presumed they saw specimens of the taxon.

Bush cited E. H. Wilkinson 168, March 14, year not given, San Antonio (MO) as his type. Celarier cited Celarier 501 (OKLA) with paratypes at SMU, TEX, TAES, MO, NA, UC, CH, K and PRE.

Bush's type is not at MO and its whereabouts are unknown. Sinclair (1967) could locate no types of Celarier's T. pedicillata at the indicated herbaria.

While I have been no more fortunate than Sinclair in locating any of these types, I have received three sheets of a collection by Gould, Brown & Celarier (5470, April 14, 1950; TAES, SMU, UC.) from the area where Celarier collected his holotype. The plant was identified by Lloyd Shinnars in 1956: another minor mystery. This collection cannot be any of the paratypes listed by Celarier since they all were of another generation raised after 1950.

These three specimens agree in all essentials with the seven misidentified ones mentioned above which were apparently depauperate examples of the same taxon. They also agree quite well with Bush's description of his T. diffusa. Celarier, after examining Tharp's material at TEX, was in no doubt that his T. pedicillata was the purported hybrid T. humilis X occidentalis.

With all type material missing, Bush's description is as adequate as that of Celarier and has clear priority. The species should therefore be T. diffusa Bush, Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis 14: 193, issued December 30, 1904.

As neotype I designate Gould, Brown & Celarier 5470, three miles east of Buchanan Dam on the Burnet-Llano road, Burnet Co., Texas, April 14, 1950 (TAES); iso-neotypes at SMU, UC.

Specimens examined, in addition to the type:
(all are from Texas):

Pennell 10460, Granite Mt., Burnet Co. (PH); Stanfield sn, San Marcos, Hays Co. (MO); Anderson sn, 6 miles west of Mirando, Webb Co. (MO); Hubricht B1846, Burnet Co., (MO); McCart 7399, 6 miles west of Aguilares, Webb Co., (OKLA); Jermy 334, Gillespie Co., (US).

Anderson E., & R. E. Woodson (1935) Contr. Arn. Arb. 9: 1-132.

Bush, B. F. (1904) Trans. Acad. Sci. St. Louis 14: 181-193.

_____ (1905) Rep. Mo. Bot. Gard.

Celarier, R. P. (1956) Field & Lab 24: 5-9.

Correll, D. S. & M. C. Johnston (1970) Tex. Res. Found.

Sinclair, C. B., Dissertation, Univ. Mo. 1967.



Macroberts, D T. 1978. "Notes on Tradescantia, T. diffusa Bush and T. pedicillata Celarier." *Phytologia* 38(4), 227–228.

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