

TWO NEW SPECIES OF VERBESINA (ASTERACEAE) FROM MEXICO,
SECTIONS SONORICOLA AND SAUBINETIA

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Identification of a large series of Mexican Asteraceae collected by Mr. Tenorio and Mr. Torres, both working out of the University of Mexico (UNAM) have revealed the following novelities.

VERBESINA TENORIESIS B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

V. crassipes accedens sed habitibus divaricationibus, foliis parvioribus, radiis paucioribus et longioribus, et involucris eximbricatis.

Rigid shrub to 1.5 m high. Stems at first appressed pubescent, tawny, but with age becoming fissured, somewhat corky and knobbed with glabrate, lenticular-like whelps. Leaves alternate, sessile, mostly 2-4 cm long, 0.6-1.5 cm wide; blades elliptical, broadest at the middle, tapering toward both ends, penninervate, coarsely short-hispid on both surfaces, the underside finely purple-reticulate, the margins denticulate. Heads hemispheric, 1-2 on short terminal branches. Chaff 4-6 mm long, pubescent, acute to obtuse. Involucre 2-3 seriate, eximbricate or nearly so, ca 8 mm high, 1.3 mm wide; bracts narrowly ovate, densely soft pubescent, the outer as long as or longer than the inner. Receptacle convex, ca 4 mm across. Ray florets 13, pistillate, fertile; ligules bright yellow, ca 1.5 cm long, 4 mm wide. Disk florets 50-60; corollas yellow, ca 5 mm long; tube appressed pubescent ca 1 mm long; limb tubular, glabrous or nearly so; lobes 5, ca 0.8 mm long. Achene (immature) body ca 4 mm long, 2 mm wide, narrowly winged; pappus of 2 subequal hispid awns 1.5-2.0 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. Puebla: Mpio. Caltepec; Barranca de Coyomeapa, al E de Caltepec, "Suelo negro sobre roca caliza blanca", 17 Oct 1984, P. Tenorio L. 7777 (holotype TEX; isotypes MEXU, to be distributed).

What with its stiff divaricate gnarled branches, a very distinctive species, presumably belonging to the section Saubinetia. According to label data, the plant is abundant locally, the site concerned being at approximately 97° 25' x 18° 10' near the Pueblo-Oaxaca border.

I would relate the plant to the Oaxacan species, Verbesina crassipes Rob. & Greenm., from which it is readily distinguished by its more rigid habit, smaller leaves, fewer, longer rays, non-

imbricate heads, etc.

It is a pleasure to name this taxon for its only known collector Mr. P. Tenorio, staff member at MEXU, whose excursions into the region concerned have revealed a very rich asteroid flora, several species of which are local endemics.

VERBESINA TORRESII B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

V. leptochaeta accedens sed capitulis multioribus, phyllariis 3-4-
seriatis valde imbricatis, foliis lobatis, etc.

Suffruticose herb or subshrub 1.0-1.5 m high. Stems terete, moderately rough hispid. Leaves opposite, 8-16 cm long, 3-10 cm wide; petioles 2.5-4.5 cm long, narrowly winged throughout, not decurrent upon the stem; blades deltoid-ovate to deltoid-hastate, penninervate, at first coarsely short-hispid on both surfaces, becoming lepidote with age, the margins coarsely and unevenly crenulodentate or sometimes lobed below, the lobes up to 2.5 cm long and 2 cm across. Heads broadly hemispheric, 3-4, terminal, on ultimate peduncles 0.5-2.5 cm long. Chaff 9-10 mm long, yellowish, acute at the apex. Involucre ca 1 cm high, 1.5-2.5 cm across, 3-4 seriate, decidedly imbricate; bracts 3-10 mm long, 2-4 mm wide, the outer and middle series oblanceolate, ciliate, often recurved. Ray florets pistillate, seemingly sterile; ligules pale yellow, 6-10 mm long, ca 3 mm wide. Disk florets numerous; corollas yellow, glabrous, ca 7 mm long; tube ca 1.5 mm long, the lobes 5, ca 1 mm long. Achene body ca 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, appressed pubescent to glabrous, prominently winged; pappus of 2 minutely hispid awns 5-6 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. Durango: "Tabahueto (el catorce)", 196 km al W de Tepehuanes, "suelo pedregoso ... selva alta caducifolia alterada", 31 Aug 1983, R. Torres C. et al. 3546 (holotype TEX; isotypes MEXU, to be distributed).

Verbesina torresii with its few large heads and pale yellow ligules, 1 rge achenes with elongate pappus awns and hastate opposite leaves belongs to the section Sonoricola (Robinson and Greennam, 1899). In Coleman's (1966) treatment of this section the species would key to V. leptochaeta, which is one of the two mainland species of the section, the other being V. chihuahuensis, a widespread perennial herb of the Chihuahuan desert. Verbesina torresii is readily distinguished from V. leptochaeta in having 3-4 seriate, decidedly imbricate involucres, with oblanceolate, decidedly ciliate bracts, 1-rger, more lobed leaves, etc.

It is a pleasure to name the species for Mr. R. Torres C. of MEXU, whose fine assemblage of Asteraceae from Northwestern Mexico is remarkable for its diversity.

Literature Cited

- Coleman, J. R. 1966. A taxonomic revision of section Sonoricola of the genus Verbesina L. (Compositae) Madrono 18:129-160.
- Robinson, B. L. and J. M. Greenman. 1899. A synopsis of the genus Verbesina, with an analytical key to the species. Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 34:534-564.



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