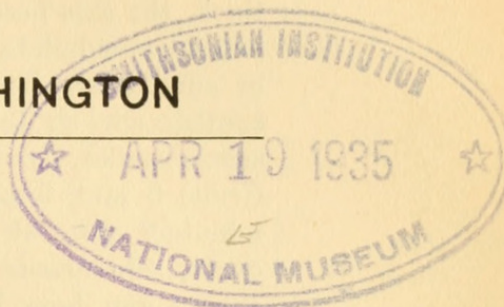


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW PLANT OF THE GENUS *POLYGALA* FROM
MEXICO.

BY S. F. BLAKE.

The new *Polygala* here described is contained in a series of about 24 collections of the genus made in the State of Mexico by Mr. G. B. Hinton in 1932-33 and submitted for identification by Sir Arthur W. Hill of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. This collection also includes excellent specimens (no. 1810) of the rare *Polygala crinita* Chod. from a dry hill at Vigas, District of Temascaltepec, State of Mexico. This species was based on two collections (nos. 404, 403) in the herbarium at Monaco obtained by Karwinski "in Mexico prope Crista," a locality of uncertain position. The plant was long afterward collected by T. S. Brandege in 1904 in the Cerro Colorado, Sinaloa, and redescribed as *P. setifera* Brandeg. It has apparently not been obtained by any other botanists. Mr. Hinton's collection of this unique species considerably extends its definitely known range.

Polygala hintonii Blake, sp. nov.

Annua tenuis glaberrima; folia alterna linearia; racemi cylindrici v. conico-cylindrici acuminati densiflori 4-6 mm. diam.; bracteae lanceolato-subulatae persistentes; flores parvi rosei v. albi brevissime pedicellati; alae ovaes v. ovali-ovatae; crista paucifida; capsula stipitata alis multo brevior; semen glabrum 0.7 mm. longum; arillus obsolescens.

Very slender erect annual, 2-4 dm. high, glabrous throughout, erectish-branched toward apex, the stem solitary, surpassed by the branches, all terminated by racemes; lowest leaves (cotyledons?) one pair, oval or obovate, short-petioled, 3-5 mm. long, 2-3 mm. wide, obtuse, the others all scattered, linear, 5-15 mm. long, 0.2-0.7 mm. wide, acute, usually erectish, short-petioled, bearing several immersed glands, the uppermost reduced, bracteiform; peduncles 1.5-4 cm. long; racemes cylindric or conic-cylindric, acuminate or in age only apiculate, 7-22 mm. long, 4-6 mm.

thick, the axis becoming 3.5 cm. long; pedicels ca. 0.3 mm. long; bracts lanceolate-subulate to lance-ovate, acuminate, 1–1.2 mm. long, spreading or curved-ascending, with 2 yellow glands at base; upper sepal ovate, acutish, slightly toothed or erose, pink or white, 1–1.2 mm. long; lower sepals similar, 0.8–1 mm. long; wings rosy or white, oval or oval-ovate, 2–(fruit) 3 mm. long, 1–(fruit) 1.4 mm. wide, rounded or obtuse, often minutely erose at apex, short-clawed, 3-nerved; upper petals obliquely ovate, subtruncate and obscurely erose at apex, 1.4–1.8 mm. long; keel 1.2–2.1 mm. long, bearing 2 large yellow glands, the crest on each side of 2 linear lobes and a subquadrate lamella; stamens 8, the anthers somewhat longer than the glabrous free part of the filaments; capsule (including stipe) 1.3–1.6 mm. long, 0.8 mm. wide, the body about 1 mm. long, obliquely suborbicular, with 2 pairs of roundish glands along septum, borne on an obliquely curved compressed stipe about half as long; seeds ellipsoid-cylindric, 0.7 mm. long, 0.3 mm. thick, black, glabrous, shining, minutely striate, minutely apiculate at base; aril obsolescent.

MEXICO: Rincón, Dist. Temascaltepec, State of Mexico, 15 Feb. 1932, *G. B. Hinton* 256 (type no. 1,589,185, U. S. Nat. Herb.); in oak woods, Mina de Agua, same District, alt. 1990 m., Oct. 1932, *Hinton* 2331; on hill, Ixtapan, same District, alt. 1000 m., 1 Nov. 1932, *Hinton* 2471; Bejucos, same District, alt. 610 m., 9 Nov. 1932, *Hinton* 2534.

In the type, which is much more mature than the other collections, the wings are rosy fading to whitish; in the other collections the wings are white or barely pink-tinged. The species is an addition to the small group in the series *Tenuis* (subgenus *Orthopolygala*) consisting of *P. gracillima* S. Wats. and *P. decidua* Blake, in both of which, as in the new species, the seed is glabrous. *Polygala decidua* is readily separated by its much larger seed (1.2 mm. long), deciduous bracts, and looser racemes, in addition to other characters. *P. gracillima*, which looks like a miniature of the new species, is distinguished by its more slender racemes (only 2–3 mm. thick), its smaller flowers (1.5 mm. long or less), its considerably smaller seed (0.5 mm. long), and the possession of 6 stamens instead of 8. The shape of its capsule and stipe is the same as in *P. hintonii*.



Blake, S. F. 1935. "A new plant of the genus *Polygala* from Mexico."
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