

# A NEW SPECIES OF *MIRABILIS* (NYCTAGINACEAE) FROM MICHOACAN, MEXICO

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## ABSTRACT

A new species, *Mirabilis hintoniorum*, belonging to the subgenus *Mirabilis*, is described and illustrated. It is known from only one collection obtained from dense woods in the vicinity of Villa Victoria, District Coalcoman, Michoacan, Mexico.

## RESUMEN

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie, *Mirabilis hintoniorum*, perteneciendo al subgénero *Mirabilis*. Se conoce de una sólo colecta del bosque cerca de Villa Victoria, District Coalcomán, Michoacán, México.

***Mirabilis hintoniorum* Le Duc, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).**

*Mirabilis exserta* Brandeg. et *M. pringlei* Weatherb. similis sed perianthii lobis redactis, vestimento glabro vel glabrato non glanduloso, et inflorescentia pauciflosculosa differt.

Herbaceous or suffruticose erect perennials(?), 7 – 8 dm high, the upper branches slender, striate, the nodes puberulent, otherwise glabrous. Mid-stem leaves 5 – 9 cm long, 2.0 – 6.5 cm wide, petioles slender 1 – 2 cm long; blades glabrous, broadly to narrowly ovate, asymmetrically cordate or slightly truncate at the base, the apices acuminate, the margins entire, sparsely ciliolate. Inflorescences terminal, arranged in few-flowered cymes, subtended by sessile or subsessile, ovate to ovate-lanceolate, pubescent, leaves. Involucre one-flowered, slightly accrescent in age, narrowly campanulate, 2 – 3 mm long, glabrous or slightly puberulent, the lobes narrowly triangular, less than 1/2 the length of tube, margin ciliolate, the peduncles 3 – 5 mm long, pubescent. Perianth 2.0 – 2.5 cm long, glabrous or nearly so, orange, dilated upwards, limb 5 – 8 mm broad, the lobes obscure, ciliolate. Stamens 5, ca. twice as long as the perianth. Anthocarp dark brown, oblong-ellipsoid, 6 – 7 mm long, 3 mm wide, constricted at both base and apex, 5-angled, the ridges tuberculate, moderately puberulent.

TYPE: MEXICO. MICHOACAN: Villa Victoria, District Coalcoman, dense woods, 700 m, 11 Jul 1939, *Hinton 13909* (HOLOTYPE: TEX!; ISOTYPES: G, MO, UC).

Research in preparation of a monograph of *Mirabilis* subgenus *Mirabilis* has revealed a heretofore undescribed species *Mirabilis hintoniorum*. The placement of this new species is in subgenus *Mirabilis* because of the following characteristics:

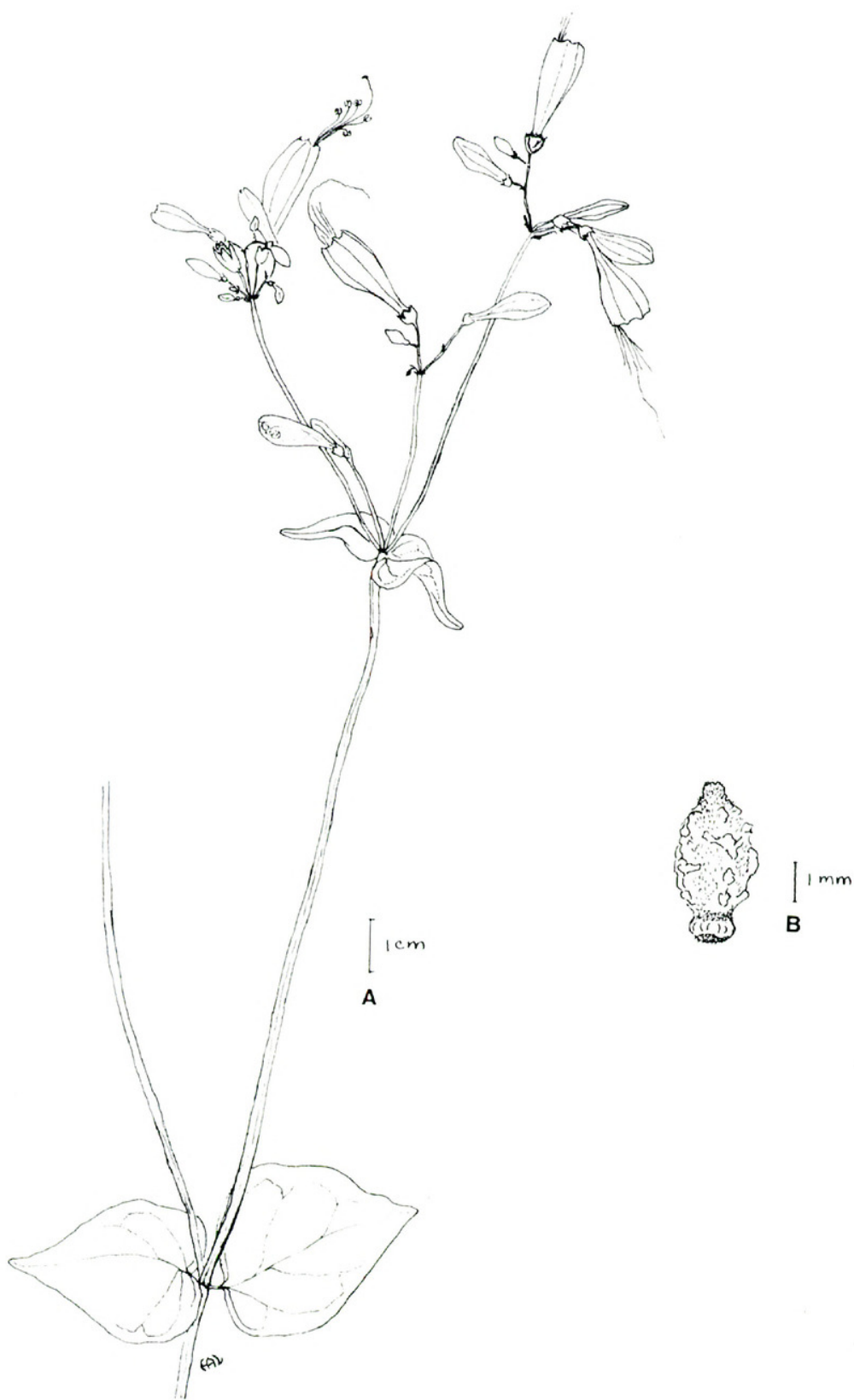


FIG. 1. *Mirabilis bintoniorum* habit and details from holotype. Showing: upper leaves and inflorescence (A), enlarged detail of the anthocarp (B).



single-flowered involucre only slightly accrescent in age, elongate perianth, and long exserted stamens. Within subgenus *Mirabilis*, the open terminal inflorescences and ovate leaves with cordate bases of *M. hintoniorum* closely ally it with *M. exserta* Brandege and *M. pringlei* Weatherby. However, it differs from these species in the extreme reduction of the perianth lobes, the lack of villous, viscid pubescence, and its few-flowered inflorescences. The anthocarp of *M. hintoniorum* most closely resembles *M. sanguinea* Heimerl, also of subgenus *Mirabilis*. It also shows a resemblance to the anthocarps of *Mirabilis* subgenus *Oxybaphus*, but the involucre of *M. hintoniorum* are only slightly accrescent in age and not membranous, unlike those found in subgenus *Oxybaphus*.

The flower color of this new species, as noted by the collector on the label, is rather unique for the genus, and might have been questioned. However, the author has collected *M. jalapa* L. with orange flowers, a small population just six miles north of Ixtapan del Sal, in the state of Mexico, thus giving credibility to Hinton's notation.

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