

PLANTAE MEXICANAE VII

BY

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TWO RARE ENDEMICS FROM NORTHEASTERN OAXACA

AMONG other plants recently collected in northeastern Oaxaca, Mexico, were two interesting endemics.

Oreopanax platyphyllum *Marchal* in Bull. Acad. Bruxelles, ser. 2, 47 (1879) 88.

MEXICO: Oaxaca, District of Choapam, Santiago Choapam, long. $95^{\circ}55'$, lat. $17^{\circ}20'$, alt. 1000 m., May 13, 1939, *Schultes & Reko 907* (Econ. Herb. Oakes Ames No. 5833; Herb. Gray).

Known apparently from only two other collections, *Oreopanax platyphyllum*, a member of the Araliaceae, is endemic to the District of Choapam in Oaxaca. In the original description, Marchal referred to the two collections which were known at that time as follows: "Mexico, ad Jocotepec et Lobcoba, Liebmann nos. 17 et 18 in hb. Haun." No state was designated in the description, but these localities are in the District of Choapam very near the locality of *Schultes & Reko 907*. The Liebmann localities are often omitted from standard maps; it may, therefore, be helpful to note that they are situated as follows: Santiago Jocotepec, longitude 95 degrees 56 minutes, latitude 17 degrees 33 minutes; and San Juan Lacova, longitude 95 degrees 55 minutes, latitude 17 degrees 29 minutes.

Besleria glabra (*Oersted*) *Hanstein* in Linnaea 34 (1865) 325.

MEXICO: Oaxaca, District of Choapam, San Juan Lalana, long. $95^{\circ}45'$, lat. $17^{\circ}25'$, alt. 350 m., May 6, 1939, *Schultes & Reko 784* (Econ. Herb. Oakes Ames No. 7120; U.S. Nat. Herb.).

Besleria glabra, a member of the Gesneriaceae, is also a very local endemic, known only from the District of

Choapam in Oaxaca. In discussing the local distribution of species of *Besleria*, Morton (*Revision of Besleria* in Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. 26 (1939) 403) stated: "The actual rarity of the species is well shown by a consideration of those known from Mexico. Four were described from Mexico by Oersted in 1858. These are *B. glabra*, *B. deflexa*, *B. cyrtanthemum*, and *B. hirsuta*, none of which have since been collected in Mexico or found elsewhere, except perhaps *B. hirsuta*." *Besleria glabra* has been known from one Liebmann and one Galeotti collection. *Schultes & Reko* 784, apparently the third collection, does not extend the range of the plant but supports Morton's statement concerning the endemism of the species.

Besleria glabra has been assigned to the State of Puebla by Morton who cited the locality of the Liebmann specimen as "Lacoba, Chinantla, State of Puebla, Mexico". This should be corrected to read, "...State of Oaxaca . . ." *Chinantla* is a local name referring to the District of Choapam and does not appear on maps of Oaxaca. It has often been confused with *Chinautla*, the name of a town which does appear on maps of Puebla. Oersted (*Gesneraceae centro-americanae* (1858) 55) in the original description of *Besleria glabra*, stated that the type plants "funden af Liebmann i Mexico i Departementet Oajaca ved Lacoba og Chinantla." Hanstein (*Linnaea* 34 (1865) 325) cited the specimen as "Mexico, Oajaca, Chinantla, Liebmann." The exact locality of San Juan Lacova is longitude 95 degrees 55 minutes, latitude 17 degrees 29 minutes.

Galeotti 1921, which has been referred to *Besleria glabra*, is labelled simply "Oaxaca." Since Galeotti made extensive collections in the Liebmann localities in northeastern Oaxaca, it seems very probable that his collection was made in this part of the state.



Schultes, Richard Evans. 1940. "Plantae mexicanae VII: Two Rare Endemics from Northeastern Oaxaca." *Botanical Museum leaflets, Harvard University* 9(1), 27–28. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.168414>.

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