

**MENODORA GYPSOPHILA (OLEACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM NEAR  
GALEANA, NUEVO LEON, MEXICO.**

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Menodora gypsophila* B.L. Turner, is described from gypseous soils near Galeana, Nuevo León, México. It is closely related to the widespread *M. coulteri* but differs by a number of characters, including leaf-shape, venation, vestiture, and substrate preference.

KEY WORDS: Oleaceae, *Menodora*, systematics, México

Routine identification of plants from northeastern México has revealed the following novelty.

**MENODORA GYPSOPHILA** B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Galeana, Santa Rosa, arid hillside, 1610 m, 6 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al.* 25643 (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

*M. coulteri* A. Gray similis differt foliis crassis, pro parte maxima triplinerviis et apiculatis, et caulibus moderate pubescentibus et hirsutis, pilis 0.2-0.3 mm longis (vs. pilis deorsum curvatis et 0.1-0.2 mm longis).

Low much-branched shrublets 10-20 cm high. Stems terete, moderately pubescent with widely spreading hairs mostly 0.2-0.3 mm long. Leaves opposite throughout, gradually reduced upwards, those at midstem lanceolate-elliptic, markedly thickened, bearing 3 raised nerves on the lower surface, pubescent like the stem, entire, the apices apiculate, the blades mostly 5-15 mm long, 4-6 mm wide. Flowers terminal, the pedicels reflexed in fruit. Calices 3-6 mm long; lobes 8-13, 2-4 mm long, linear-lanceolate, pubescent with spreading hairs. Corollas bright yellow; tubes 2-4 mm long; lobes 5-10 mm long, 3-6 mm wide. Anthers yellow, exserted 2-4 mm from the tube. Style exserted 3-5 mm from the tube. Paired capsules ovoid, reflexed, each ca. 5 mm across; seeds obovoid, ca. 4 mm long, 2 mm across, the outer surface spongy and irregularly patterned.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS EXAMINED: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Galeana, 5 km from Galeana, along the road to Rayones, 1600 m, 27 Jun 1994,

*Hinton et al.* 24474 (TEX); 3 km N of Galeana on rather bare gypseous-calcareous (?) soils, 26 Jul 1993, *Turner* 93-158 (TEX).

Collections of this species were unknown to me at the time of my treatment of *Menodora* for North America (Phytologia 71:340-356. 1991.). As indicated by the specimens cited above, this taxon was first collected by myself in 1993 (along with several close-up photographs). The two subsequent collections were made by Jaime and George Hinton in about the same area, apparently also in gypseous soils. I have selected *Hinton* 25643 as the type of this species because the collections concerned possess relatively large well-developed leaves and bountiful flowers. The other two collections are not as lush and possess leaves about half the size of the type, with decidedly smaller flowers, especially *Turner* 93-158 which has very small calyces (3-4 mm long) with only ca. 8 lobes (vs. ca. 13 in the type). In most other details, however, the paratypes are like those of the holotype. When originally collected I thought that *M. gypsophila* might be an aberrant specimen of *M. coulteri*, the latter having thinner, largely enervate leaves and a finer, down-curved stem-pubesence. The additional Hinton collections have convinced me that the populations concerned deserve a name. I am especially grateful to George Hinton's perceptive eye who sent me the most recent collection with the observation (pers. letter) that "the leaves have clear venations that are unlike any in our collections, and I couldn't match it to any in your revision of the genus", which is so, hence the description here.

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Turner, B. L. 1995. "Menodora gypsophila (Oleaceae), a new species from near Galeana, Nuevo Leon, Mexico." *Phytologia* 79, 8–9.

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