

**STELLARIA MIAHUATLANA (CARYOPHYLLACEAE), A NEW SPECIES
FROM OAXACA, MEXICO**

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ABSTRACT

Stellaria miahuatlana B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, is described from Distrito Miahuatlán, Oaxaca, México. It is closely related to *S. irazuensis* but differs in its 5-parted calyx, larger corollas and much larger leaves.

KEY WORDS: Caryophyllaceae, *Stellaria*, México, Oaxaca, systematics

Routine identification of Mexican plants has revealed the following novelty.

STELLARIA MIAHUATLANA B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Distrito Miahuatlán, above Xianaguilla, 2510 m, "mixed woods of oak, pine, arbutus...Common", 24 Oct 1995, *Hinton et al.* 26426 (TEX).

Similis *S. irazuensis* Donn. Sm. sed calycibus cum 5 lobis (vice 4), corollis majoribus, ca. 9 mm longis (vice 3-6 mm longis), et foliis majoribus cum laminis 30-40 mm latis (vice 10-20 mm).

Sprawling perennial (?) herbs to 0.4 m high. Younger stems mostly pilose; older stems glabrate and shiny, the internodes mostly 2-3 times as long as the leaves. Stipules absent. Midstem leaves (4-)5-6 cm long; petioles 1.0-2.5 cm long, pilose; blades cordate, 3.0-4.5 cm long, 3.0-3.5 cm wide, more or less glabrous on both surfaces, the margins and veins sparsely pilose. Flowers 5-10, mostly axillary in bracteate dichasial cymes, rarely solitary. Pedicels mostly 1.5-2.0 cm long, densely glandular-pilose. Sepals 5, ovate-lanceolate, 4-5 mm long, ca. 1.5 mm wide, sparsely pilose below, the margins white-scarious. Petals 5, white, ca. 9 mm long, deeply cleft for 4-5 mm, the lobes linear to linear-oblongate, weakly nervate, if at all. Stamens 10, ca. 4 mm long, the anthers white. Style branches 3, ca. 4 mm long, free to the base. Capsules (immature) ca. 4.5 mm long, the young seeds numerous and peripherally ornate with bulging cells.

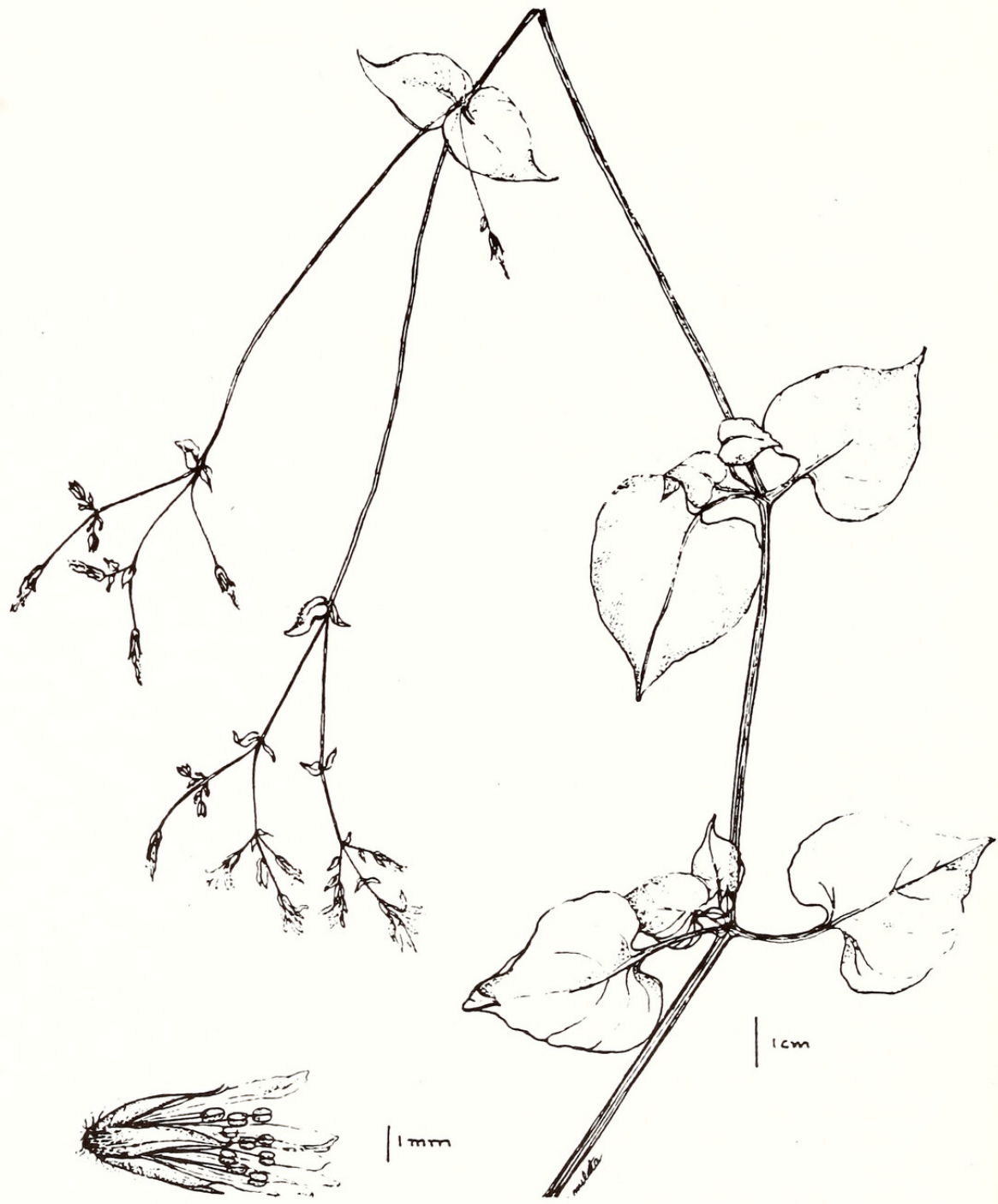


Figure 1. *Stellaria miahuatlana*, from holotype.

This taxon, because of its inflorescence, glandular-villous pedicels and markedly cordate leaves, appears to be closely related to *Stellaria irazuensis* Donn. Sm. a species of Central America (Guatemala to Panamá), nicely illustrated by Duke (1961) in his treatment of *Stellaria* for Panamá. *Stellaria miahuatlana* is readily distinguished from *S. irazuensis* in having larger more broadly cordate blades (30-35 mm wide vs. 5-15 mm wide) mostly 5 sepals (vs. 4 sepals), and larger petals.

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