

NEW SPECIES OF *VERNONIA* (S.L.), SECTION *LEIBOLDIA*,
(ASTERACEAE, VERNONIEAE), FROM EASTERNMOST OAXACA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Vernonia wendtiana* B.L. Turner, is described and illustrated from easternmost Oaxaca (Mpio. Chimalapa), México. It belongs to the section *Leiboldia* and is obviously closely related to *Vernonia salvinae*, a species of easternmost Chiapas, México and Central America. It differs from the latter in possessing smaller heads with (4-)6-seriate closely appressed, markedly gradate, involucre bracts.

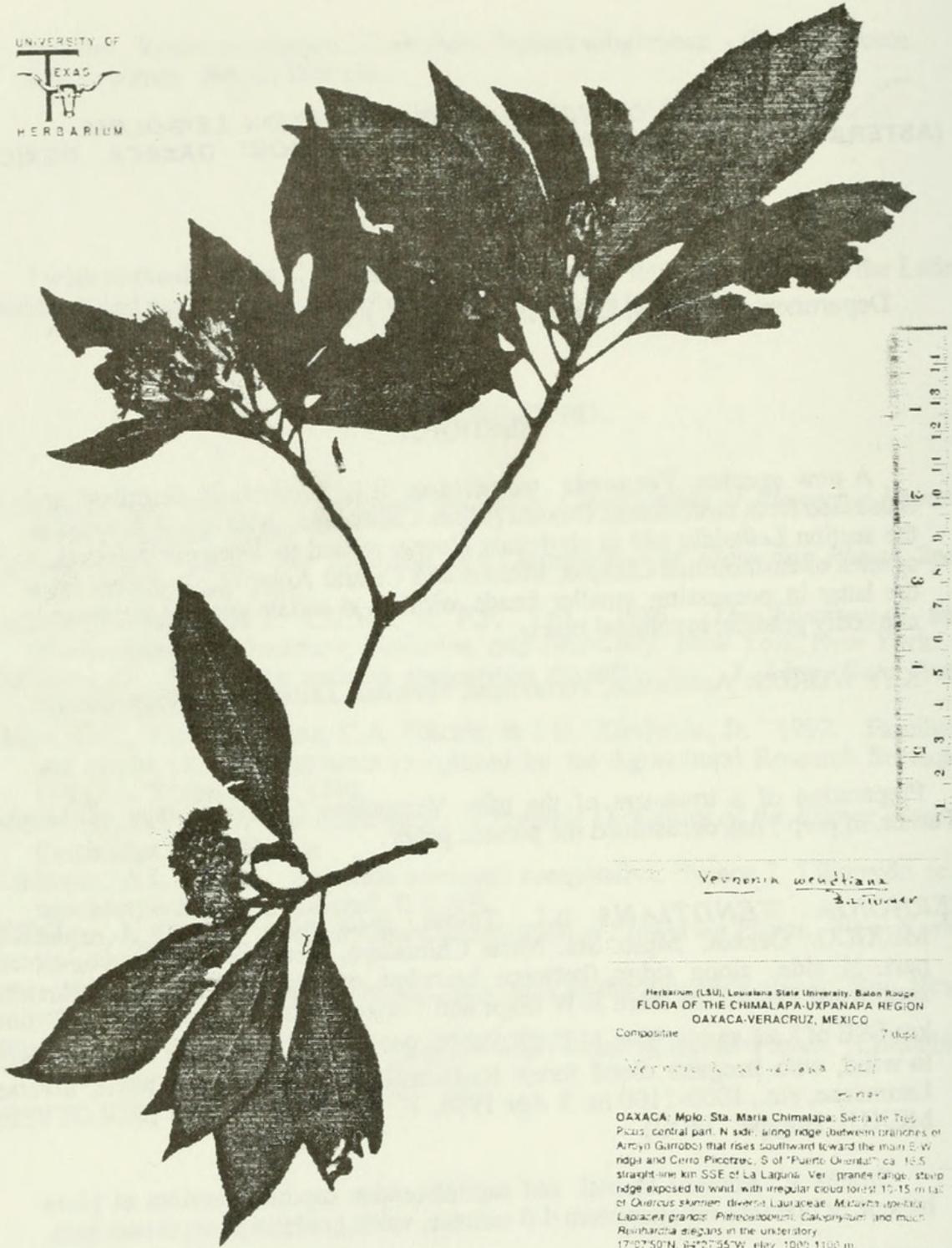
KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Vernonieae, *Vernonia*, *Leiboldia*, México, Oaxaca

Preparation of a treatment of the tribe Vernonieae for the Comps of Mexico (Turner, in prep.) has occasioned the present paper.

VERNONIA WENDTIANA B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca: Mpio. Sta. Maria Chimalapa, Sierra de Tres Picos, central part, N side, along ridge (between branches of Arroyo Garrobo) that rises southward toward the main E-W ridge and Cerro Picotzue, ca. 16.5 straight-line km SSE of La Laguna, Ver. (17° 07' 50" N, 94° 27' 55" W), steep ridge exposed to wind, with irregular cloud forest 10-15 m high of *Quercus skinneri*, diverse Lauraceae, etc., 1000-1100 m, 3 Apr 1996, T. Wendt, et al. 6745 (HOLOTYPE: MEXU!; Isotype: TEX!).

Similis *V. salvinae* Hemsl. sed capitulscientiae capitula parviora et plura habent, et bracteae involucrorum 4-6 seriatas, valde gradatas et expressas sunt.

"Weak semi-candilabriform small tree to 3 m high" with trunks to 12 cm across. Stems densely hirsute. Larger leaves 12-16 cm long, 3.5-6.0 cm wide; petioles 1.0-2.5 cm long; blades decidedly elliptical, widest at or near the middle, pinnately veined, appressed pubescent above and below, lower surfaces decidedly glandular-punctate,



Vernonia wendiana
B.L. Turner

Herbarium (LSU), Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
FLORA OF THE CHIMALAPA-UXPANAPA REGION
OAXACA-VERACRUZ, MEXICO

Compositae 7 (dup.)

Vernonia wendiana B.L. Turner

nov.

OAXACA: Mpio. Sta. María Chimalapa, Sierra de Tres Picos, central part, N. side, along ridge (between branches of Arroyo Garrobo) that rises southward toward the main E-W ridge and Cerro Picotzoc, S. of "Puerto Oriental" ca. 10.5 straight-line km SSE of La Laguna. Ver. granite ridge, steep ridge exposed to wind, with irregular cloud forest 10-15 m tall of *Quercus skinneri*, diverse Lauraceae, *Melicope apiculata*, *Laplacea grandis*, *Pithecolobium*, *Cakophyllum*, and much *Rainieria diegensis* in the understory.

17°07'50"N, 94°27'55"W, elev. 1000-1100 m.

Abundant weak, semi-candelabra-form small tree to 3 m, d.b. to 10 cm, lvs. with strong odor, fl. pink.

Field tested in Oaxaca's rainforest (S. Chimalapa) by B.L. Turner.

Col. T. Wendt, Heriberto Hernández G., P. Tenorio, E. Torres, G. Salazar, M. A. Soto, O. Rocha 6745

3 April 1995

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Figure 1. *Vernonia wendiana*, isotype.

the margins denticulate. Heads mostly arranged 2-3 in terminal cymes, these overtopped by the leaves, the ultimate peduncles 1-2 cm long, pubescent like the stems. Involucres broadly campanulate, 1.2-1.5 cm high, 1.2-1.8 cm wide (pressed); bracts 4-6 seriate, gradate, the innermost linear-lanceolate with mostly broadly rounded thickened erose apices that are not reflexed with age. Receptacles plane, epaleate, ca. 5 mm across, glabrous. Florets numerous; corollas pink, ca. 15 mm long, sparsely glandular pubescent throughout; tubes ca. 8 mm long, grading into the throat, the lobes linear-lanceolate, 2-4 mm long. Achenes obpyramidal, ca. 3.5 mm high, smooth and glabrous; pappus of numerous tawny, readily deciduous, barbellate bristles 6-9 mm long.

Vernonia wendtiana belongs to the sect. *Leiboldia* of *Vernonia* (*s.l.*) as treated by Turner (1981), although Gleason (1929) and Robinson & Funk (1988) recognized the latter as generically distinct. It is clearly closely related to *V. salvinae*, but differs from the latter in having smaller, more numerous heads, the involucral bracts 4-6 seriate, strongly gradate, with rather thick unreflexed apical appendages.

It is a pleasure to name this novelty for Thomas Wendt, well-known field worker in the Chimalapan forests and curator at TEX.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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