

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.

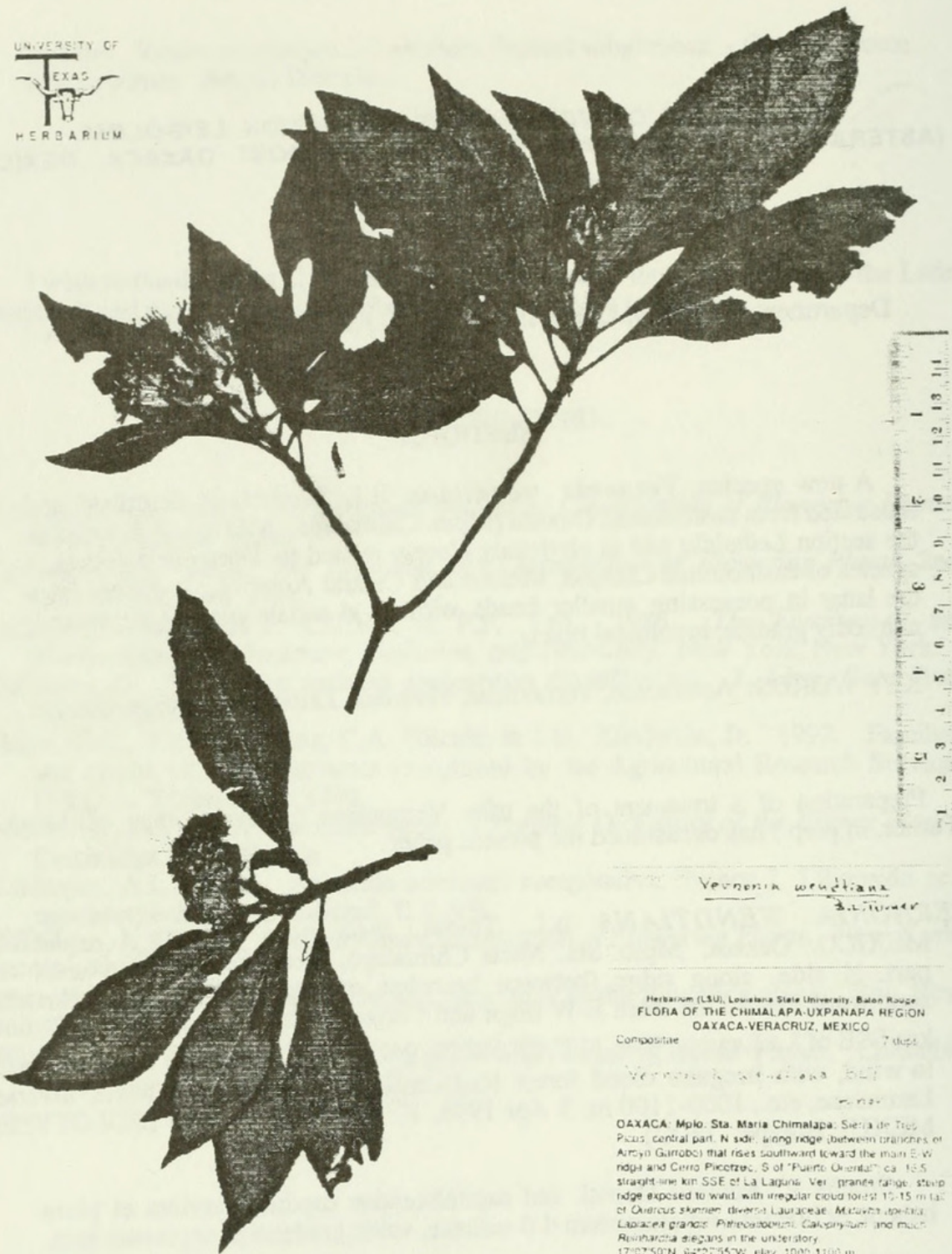
KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Vernonieae, *Vernonia*, *Leiboldia*, México, Oaxaca

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 capitulscintiae capitula parviora et plura habent, et bractae involucrorum 4-6 seriatas, valde gradatas et expressas sunt.

"Weak semi-candilabrifform 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 wendtiana*  
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Herbarium (LSU), Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge  
FLORA OF THE CHIMALAPA-UXPANAPA REGION  
OAXACA-VERACRUZ, MEXICO

Compositae 7 (1995)

*Vernonia wendtiana* B. L. Turner

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 Picotrec, 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, *Myrsine apiculata*, *Laplacea grandis*, *Pithecellobium*, *Calceolarium*, and much *Ruellia* in the understory.

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

Abundant weak semi-canopy-form small tree to 3 m, d.b.h. to 12 cm, lvs. with strong odor, fl. pink.

Field tested in Oaxaca's section 150-Veracruz, Oaxaca, Mexico.

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 wendtiana*, 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 involucre 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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