

A NEW EPIPHYTIC SPECIES OF *SENECIO* (ASTERACEAE: SENECEONEAE)
FROM VERACRUZ, MÉXICO

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ABSTRACT

The genus *Nelsonianthus* was recently proposed to accommodate its only described species, *N. epiphyticus*, which occurs in Guatemala and adjacent Chiapas, México. The genus would appear to be a segregate from the sect. *Terminales* of *Senecio*, sensu Greenman, a position essentially adopted by Barkley (1985). If accepted, the genus *Nelsonianthus* is now known by an additional species, *S. tapianus*, described here from near Xalapa, Veracruz, México.

KEY WORDS: *Nelsonianthus*, *Senecio*, Senecioneae, Asteraceae, México.

The epiphytic species, *Nelsonianthus epiphyticus* H. Robins. & Brettell, was first described by Robinson & Brettell (1973). Williams (1974) transferred this to the genus *Senecio*, where it was dubbed *S. armentalis* L. Williams (the name *S. epiphyticus* O. Ktze. being occupied). Barkley (1985) would include the species in his broad view of *Senecio*, a position which I follow here.

Senecio tapianus is readily distinguished from *S. armentalis* by its radiate heads and more numerous disk florets with shorter corollas.

Senecio tapianus B. Turner, *spec. nov.* (Figure 1). TYPE: MÉXICO. Veracruz: Mpio. Chiconquiaco, "Cima del Cerro del Borrego, entre planta del Pie y Buenavista. Bosque de Niebla suelo arcilloso con abundante materia organica asociada con *Quercus* spp." 21 Jan 1988, L. Tapia M. & J. Hernández P. 517 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!: Isotype: WIS).

S. armentalis similis sed foliis plerumque cordatis vel triangularibus petiolis longioribus, capitulis radiatis, et flosculis disci numerosioribus (15-20 vs ca 10) corollis brevioribus (ca 7 mm longis vs 10 mm) differt.

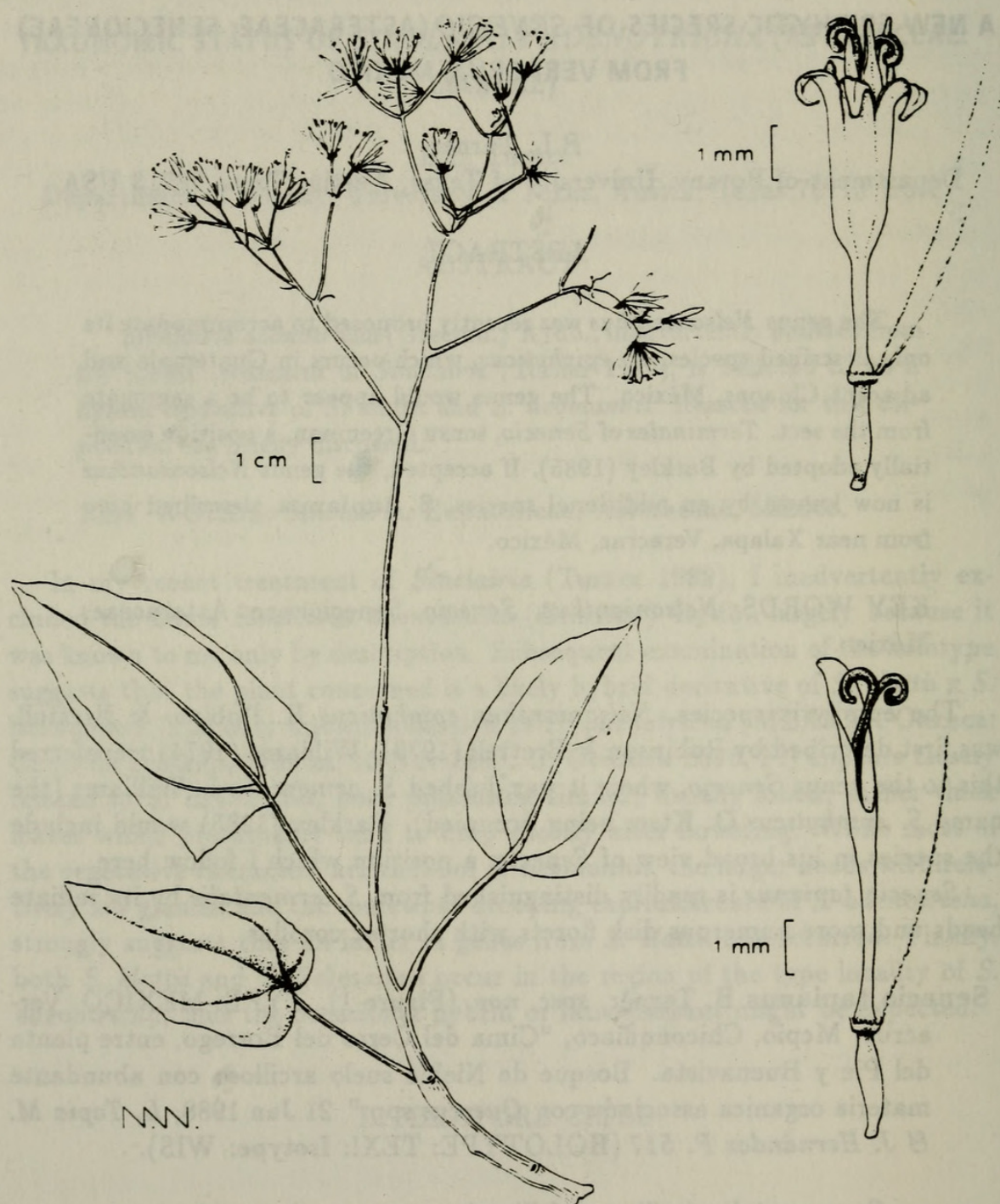


Fig. 1. Senecio tapianus, from isotype.

Epiphytic sarcocaulous herb or shrublet 20-50 cm high. Leaves mostly alternate, 8-12 cm long, 3-4 cm wide; petioles 2.5-3.5 cm long; blades broadly ovate, cordate to triangular, glabrous, trinervate from or near the base, the margins entire. Heads 20-30, borne terminal in an open cymose panicle, the primary peduncles glabrous, 6-12 cm long, the ultimate peduncles 0.5-1.5 cm long. Involucres 8-9 mm high, the linear lanceolate bracts 8, glabrous, equal, these subtended by (0)1-3 linear, calyculate bracts 1-3 mm long. Receptacle convex, ca 2 mm across, glabrous, epaleate. Ray florets 5, pistillate, fertile; ligules yellow, 2-3 mm long, ca 1 mm wide; tubes ca 4 mm long. Disk florets ca 20; corollas yellow, glabrous, ca 7 mm long, the tube ca 3.5 mm long, the throat ca 3 mm long, the lobes ca 0.5 mm long. Achenes ca 3 mm long, glabrous.

According to label data, the florets are yellow and the plant is said to be a "muy abundante epiphyte" at the locality concerned.

It is a pleasure to name this taxon for its principal collector who called it to my attention by letter, dated 11 Dec 1987, accompanied by a colored photograph of the plant. From the latter, I recognized its relationship to *Nelsonianthus epiphyticus* (= *Senecio armentalis*). Subsequently, examining pressed plants made by Mr. Tapia, I concluded that these represented an undescribed species and take great pleasure in naming this for its major collector, astute plant systematist who works out of INIREB, Xalapa (XAL).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Luis Tapia M., who first called the plant to my attention (as noted above), and to Dr. Guy Nesom for the Latin diagnosis and to him and T. Barkley for comments upon the manuscript itself. Nancy Webber provided the illustration.

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Turner, B. L. 1989. "A new epiphytic species of Senecio (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) from Veracruz, México." *Phytologia* 67(5), 387–389.

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