

**ELEVATION OF *STEVIA LEMMONII* VAR. *HISPIDULA*  
(ASTERACEAE: EUPATORIEAE) TO SPECIFIC RANK**

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Grashoff (1972, 1974) described *Stevia lemmonii* A. Gray var. *hispidula* Grashoff, distinguishing this from its sister taxon, *S. l.* var. *lemmonii*, by its glandular-pubescent involucres (vs. eglandular) and its more southern distribution. He commented further that "It would appear from the ranges of the two varieties [Fig.1] that var. *hispidula* is the more primitive of the two, var. *lemmonii* being a more northern, glandular taxon." Grashoff also noted that "neither Gray (1882) nor Robinson (1930) ever mentioned the glandular pubescence of the typical variety, although they often placed great emphasis on this character in other groups."

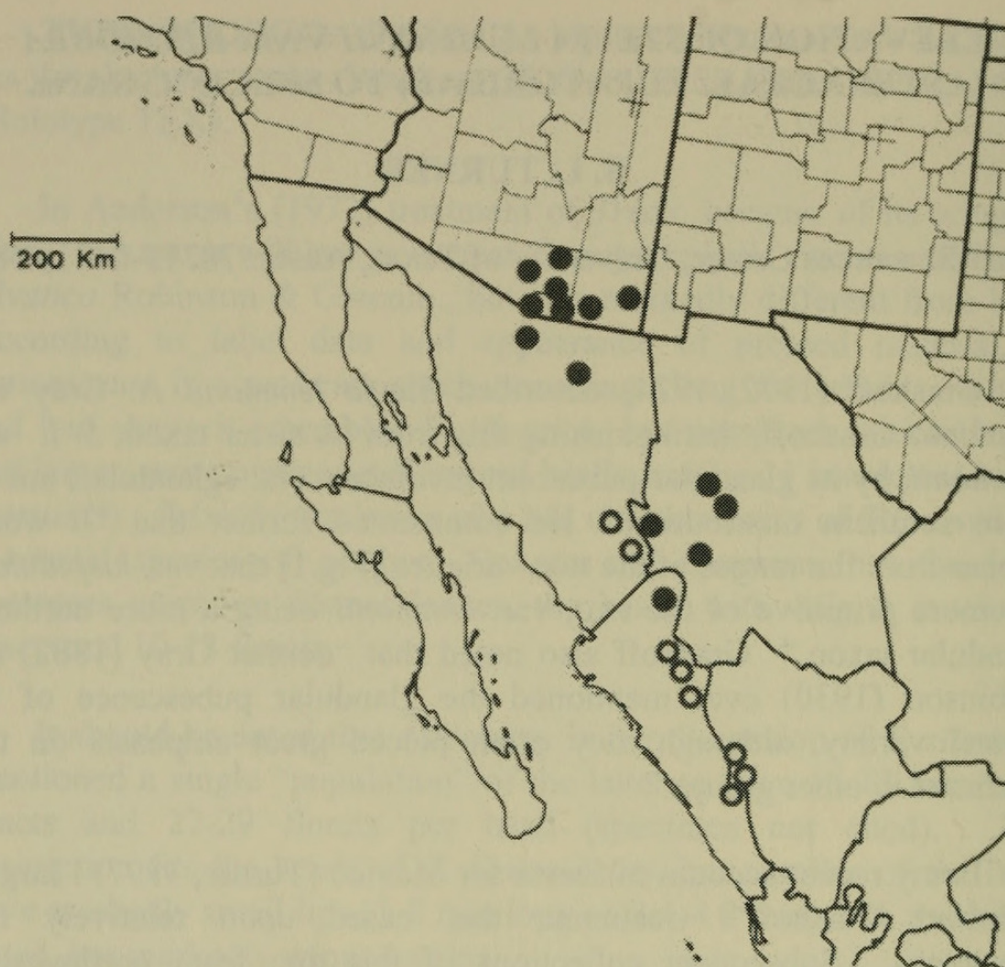
In my recent account of *Stevia* for Mexico (Turner, 1997) I largely followed Grashoff's treatment, this based upon relatively few specimens. Subsequent collections of this duo from northwestern Mexico suggest that they are worthy of specific rank, at least I have not found that these two allopatric sister taxa show any signs of intergradation. My views regarding the treatment of such infraspecific variation are discussed in more detail elsewhere (Turner and Nesom, 2000). The necessary nomenclature follows:

***Stevia hispidula* (Grashoff) B. L. Turner, *stat. nov.***

BASIONYM: *Stevia lemmonii* var. *hispidula* Grashoff, Brittonia 26: 364. 1974.

Turner (1997) noted that Grashoff cited a single specimen (Gentry 5587) from Sinaloa, Mexico that he referred to var. *lemmonii*. At the time I took the collection concerned to be a "stipitate-glandular form" of var. *hispidula*. Recent collections from the area concerned now suggest that Grashoff was correct in his original observation.





**Fig 1.** Distribution of *Stevia lemmonii* (closed circles) and *S. hispidula* (open circles).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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Turner, B. L. 2005. "Elevation of *Stevia lemmonii* var. *hispidula* (Asteraceae: Eupatorieae) to specific rank." *Phytologia* 87(1), 53–55.

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