ERIOGONUM GRANITICUM (POLYGONACEAE), A NEW NAME AND RANK FOR *E. TENELLUM* VAR. *RAMOSISSIMUM*

B. L. Turner
Plant Resources Center
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712
email billie@uts.cc.utexas.edu

Eriogonum graniticum B.L. Turner, **nom. & stat. nov.**

Based upon *Eriogonum tenellum* var. *ramosissimum* Benth., in DC., Prodr. 14: 20. 1856. - not *E. ramosissimum* Eastwood 1896.

In Bentham's protologue two specimens were cited, one by Lindheimer (no. 683, which was collected, September of 1847, N of Fredericksburg in "Granitic mountains," according to Blankenship [1907]") and another by Riddell (no. 23). Reveal, by annotation (GH) selected the former sheet as lectotype, although strict adherence to the Code would mandate the selection of one of the two sheets examined by Bentham himself, these housed at KEW. Regardless, I have opted to elevate Bentham's var. *ramosissimum* to specific rank, as noted in the account that follows.

In the Atlas of Texas Plants (Turner et al. 2002) I treated *E. tenellum* var. *ramosissimum* as a species, dubbing this "*E. ramosissmum*" in my map of the taxon. Fortunately, I did not make the name concerned formal since, as indicated in the above, that name is preoccupied at the specific level. The present note is designed to correct this over sight.

Reveal (1968, 1970, 1976) treated *Eriogonum* for Texas and adjoining areas. He recognized *E. tenellum* as having three varieties: var. *tenellum* of far western Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, this having strictly basal leaves; var. *platyphyllum* with cauline leaves, this largely confined to calcareous soils of southern Trans-Pecos, Texas and adjacent Mexico; and var. *ramosissimum,* also with cauline leaves, this confined to granitic out crops in central Texas. Reveal (2005)

maintained this triad, each at the varietal level, in his recent account for the Flora of North America. Nevertheless, I treated all of these at the specific level in the above mentioned Atlas of Texas Plants. As well noted by Reveal (1968), the var. *ramosissimum* is easily and consistently recognized by its "elliptic to deltoid leaves sheathing up the stems to 15 cm" while leaves of the var. *platyphyllum* "are ovate to orbicular and sheath up the stems to 20 cm."

In short, the three varietal taxa of *E. tenellum* appear to be good biological species, each existing in organized populations that show little sign of intergradation, although the occasional hybrid or its derivitive can be expected between *E. tenellum* and *E. platyphyllum* where they grow together. On the other hand, *E. graniticum,* in that its distribution is confined to granitic soils in the Central Mineral Region of Texas, is not likely to hybridize with yet other taxa.

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