

TWO NEW SPECIES OF MEXICAN IRIDACEAE

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ABSTRACT

Two new species of Iridaceae are described and illustrated, both collected in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. *Sisyrinchium planicola* Ceja & Cholewa has blue flowers with a white eye and grows abundantly in the flood plains of Llano de las Flores. *Tigridia mariaetrinitatis* Espejo & López-Ferrari, only known from the type locality in Rancho Progreso, municipality of Chalcatongo de Hidalgo, belongs to the subgenus *Hydrotaenia* and has the flowers erect, brilliant yellow in their base, the outer tepals white lilac with purple spots and the inner tepals yellow with purple spots.

Key word: Iridaceae, *Sisyrinchium*, *Tigridia*, new species, Oaxaca, Mexico.

RESUMEN

Se describen e ilustran dos nuevas especies de Iridaceae, ambas colectadas en el estado de Oaxaca, México. *Sisyrinchium planicola* Ceja & Cholewa sp. n. tiene flores azules con un ojo blanco y crece abundantemente en los sitios inundables del Llano de las Flores. *Tigridia mariaetrinitatis* Espejo & López-Ferrari sp. n., sólo conocida de la localidad tipo en Rancho Progreso, municipio de Chalcatongo de Hidalgo, pertenece al subgénero *Hydrotaenia* y tiene las flores erectas, amarillas brillantes en la base con los tépalos externos blanco-liliáceos con manchas purpúreas y los tépalos internos amarillos con manchas purpúreas.

Palabras clave: Iridaceae, *Sisyrinchium*, *Tigridia*, nuevas especies, Oaxaca, México.

The two most important genera of Mexican Iridaceae are undoubtedly *Sisyrinchium* and *Tigridia*. The former is represented in the country by 45 species (Ceja, Espejo & López-Ferrari, 1998; Espejo & López-Ferrari, 1996a, 1996b, 1997; Espejo, López-Ferrari & Ceja, 1998, 1999), 56% of the total species number (Goldblatt, 1990) and all known North American species of *Tigridia* are present in Mexico (Espejo & López-Ferrari, 1996a, 1996b; Molseed, 1970).

While collecting for a study of Iridaceae in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, specimens of *Sisyrinchium* and *Tigridia* were gathered and a careful review of material and pertinent literature indicates that there are two novelties for which we propose:

***Sisyrinchium planicola* Ceja & Cholewa sp. n. Fig. 1**

Herba perennis, erecta, 7-15(22) cm alta, radices fasciculatae, breves carnosaeque; folia omnia basalia, linearia, 0.8-1.5 mm lata; spathae subaequales, compressae; tepala patentia, 1.3-1.8 cm longa, 6-8 mm lata, elliptica vel oblongo-elliptica, caerulea, macula basali nivea; antherae atrocaeruleae, 3-3.5 mm longae; fructus obovoideus vel subsphaericus, 6 mm longus, 5.5 mm latus; semina ca. 1.5 mm diametro, dilute brunnea, umbonata, reticulata.

Erect perennial herb 7-15(22) cm high, essentially glabrous, roots tuberous, 0.9-1.8 cm long, 0.2-0.4 cm in diameter; flowering stem straight to slightly curved, slightly compressed and minutely scaberulous especially in the upper portion, distally branching; basal leaves 5-8, linear, 4-11 cm long, 0.8-1.5 mm wide, acute, glabrous except for the minutely scaberulous margin; cauline leaves none except for the modified bracteal ones subtending flowering branches; peduncles slightly compressed, 0.5-2.5 cm long; spathes containing 1-5-flowered rhipidia, compressed, subequal, 1.5-2.3 cm long, 5-7 mm wide, the outer usually shorter, membranous margins of the outer spathe hyaline or reddish; pedicels erect, 2.1-2.6 cm long, surpassing the spathe for 0.2-1.2 cm; flowers light blue-purple with a white eye, 2.6-3.6 cm diameter, tepals spreading horizontally from the base, obovate to oblong-elliptic, 1.3-1.8 cm long, 6-8 mm wide; filaments 4-4.5 mm long, basally connate for 1-1.5 mm; anthers linear, 3-3.5 mm long, deep blue; ovary glabrous, oblong-ellipsoid, 2.5 mm long, ca. 1.6 mm in diameter, style 5 mm long, stigma capitate, yellow; fruit obovoid to subglobose, 6 mm long, 5.5 mm diameter; seeds subglobose, ca. 1.5 mm in diameter, light brown, umbonate, testa reticulate.

TYPE: México. Oaxaca, Distrito Ixtlán de Juárez, Municipio San Juan Atepec, Llano de las Flores, sobre la carretera Tuxtepec-Oaxaca, 2970 m s.n.m., llanos inundables, 7.VIII.1998. A. Espejo, A. R. López-Ferrari & J. Ceja 6000 (holotype UAMIZ; isotypes ENCB, IEB, MINN)

S. planicola (Fig. 2) is clearly distinct from other species with blue flowers because of its small size and the large light blue purple flowers that almost resemble the flowers of *Nemastylis*, a small genus of ca. 5 species of bulbous Iridaceae distributed from southwestern U.S.A. to Guatemala. The non-apiculate tepals and the style dividing shortly above the base into two long filiform branches, each slightly swollen at the stigmatic area,

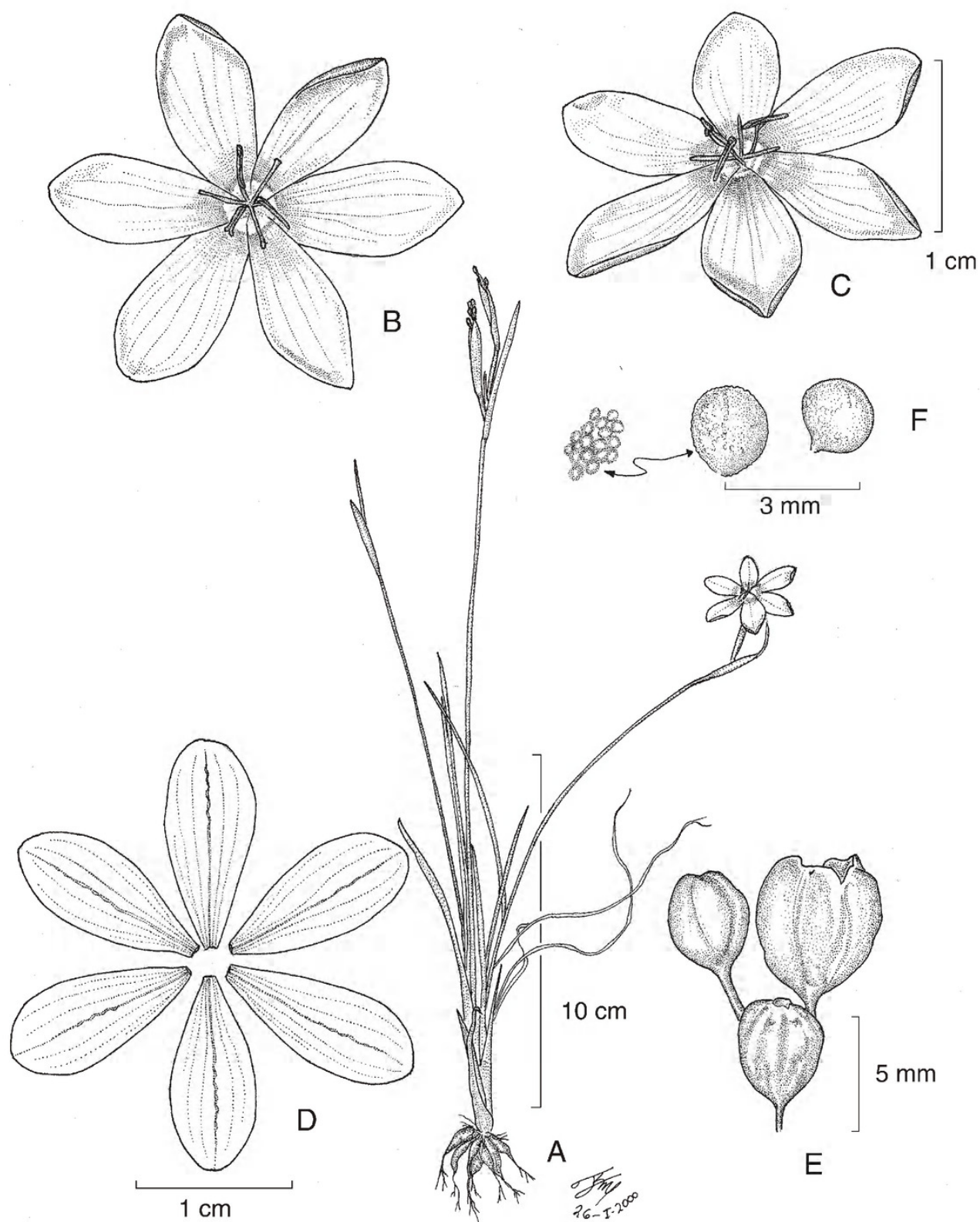


Fig. 1. *Sisyrinchium planicola* Ceja & Cholewa. A. Habit; B, C. Flower; D. Flower dissected; E. Capsules; F. Seeds.

are also distinctive. *S. planicola* is similar in vegetative morphology to *S. johnstonii* Standl. and probably confused with it in herbarium material. However the analysis of the floral structure allows the clear delimitation of both species. In *S. planicola* the flowers are light blue-purple with the tepals extended and rounded at the apex while *S. johnstonii* has white to blue campanulate flowers with the tepals apiculate. The name of the species refers to the type locality, the flood plains of Llano de las Flores, Oaxaca.



Fig. 2. *Sisyrinchium planicola* Ceja & Cholewa in its natural habitat.

***Tigridia mariaetrinitatis* Espejo & López-Ferrari sp. n. Fig. 3**

Herba perennis, erecta, bulbosa, caules usque 40 cm alti; folia basalia dua, linearia, plicata, usque ad 57 cm longa et 4 mm lata; spathae bractearum subaequales, 6-8 cm longae; flores erecti, 5-6 cm diametro; tepala conniventia et ad basim cupulam vivide luteam formantia; tepala externa elliptica vel oblongo-elliptica, 2.6-3 cm longa, 1.5-1.8 cm lata; alba vel albo-lilacina, maculis purpureis, tepala interna deltoideo-unguiculata, ca. 1 cm longa, 1.2 cm lata, lutea, maculis purpureis; glandes ad tepalorum partem apicalem positae; filamenta connata, ca. 7-9 mm longa; antherae lineares, 9 mm longae; styli ramuli 6-7 mm longi.

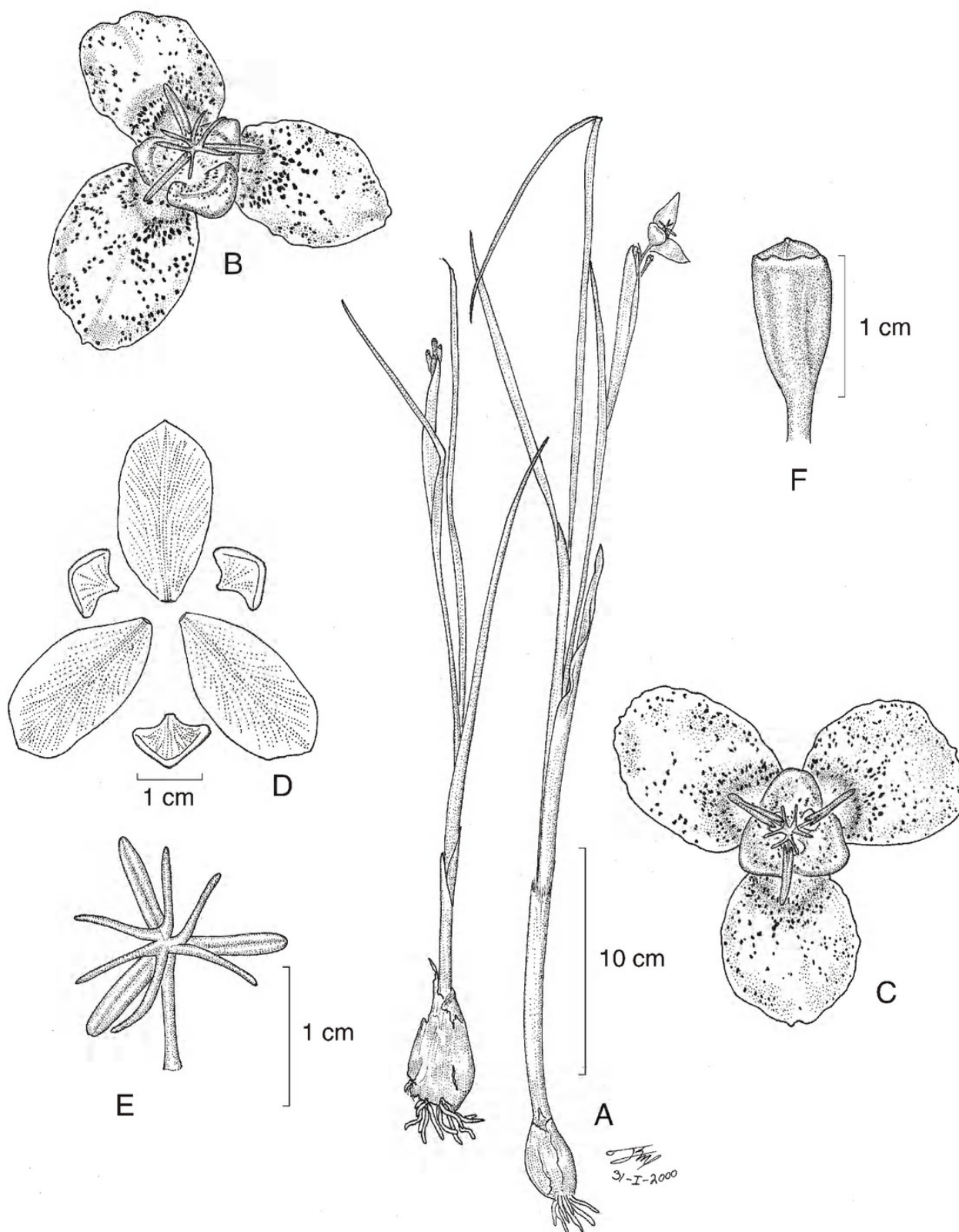


Fig. 3. *Tigridia mariaetrinitatis* Espejo & López-Ferrari. A. Habit; B, C. Flower; D. Flower dissected; E. Anthers and style detail; F. Immature capsule.

Erect bulbous perennial herb 25-40 cm high, glabrous, bulb ovoid to amply ovoid, to 5 cm long, 1.8-3 cm wide, the outer tunics thin, pale brown; basal leaves two, linear, plicate, 25-57 cm long, 4 mm wide, longer than the flowering stem, cauline leaf one, linear, plicate, to 25 cm long, 4 mm wide; flowering stem to 40 cm high, branched just above the cauline leaf; inflorescence a rhipidium with the spathes subequal, 6-8 cm long, ca. 1 cm wide, conduplicate, acute; peduncles 1.8-6 cm long, sulcate; pedicels linear-filiform, 4-8 cm long; flowers 4-8 by rhipidium, erect, 5-6 cm diameter, the tepals connivent at base forming a shallow cup, spreading distally, the base brilliant yellow, outer tepals white to white-lilac with purple spots, elliptic to oblong-elliptic, acuminate, 2.6-3 cm long, 1.5-1.8 cm wide, inner tepals yellow with purple spots, deltoid-unguiculate, ca. 1 cm long, 1.2 cm wide, without a spreading limb, glands disposed at the apical part of the inner tepals, semicircular; filaments connate for 7-9 mm, anthers linear, ca. 9 mm long; ovary oblong, ca. 6 mm long, ca. 3 mm wide, style branches 6-7 mm long, deeply bifid into two arms, red to purple; mature capsule turbinate, 1.8-2.2 cm long, ca. 1 cm diameter; seeds subglobose to pyriform, ca. 3 mm in diameter.

TYPE: México. Oaxaca, Distrito Tlaxiaco, municipio Chalcatongo de Hidalgo, alrededores de Rancho Progreso, 17°02'01"N, 97°34'49"W, 2380 m s.n.m., vegetación secundaria, abundante en las milpas, 26.VI.2000. A. Espejo, A. R. López-Ferrari, J. Ceja y A. Mendoza Ruiz 6247 (holotype UAMIZ; isotypes GH, IEB, K, MEXU, MINN, OAX).

Paratype: México. Oaxaca, Distrito Tlaxiaco, Municipio Chalcatongo de Hidalgo, 300 m al oeste de la agencia municipal de Rancho Progreso, ca. 2520 m s.n.m., vegetación secundaria, 30.VI.1996. A. Mendoza Ruiz 150 (CIIDIR, IEB, UAMIZ).

T. mariaetrinitatis is only known from the type locality and occurs in seasonally flooded plains with secondary vegetation at 2380-2520 m alt. (Fig. 4). The name of the species honors María Trinidad Serna Treviño, mother of the senior author.

The new species belongs to *Tigridia* subgenus *Hydrotaenia* (sensu Molseed, 1970) and to the *vanhouttei* complex (*T. alpestris* Molseed, *T. bicolor* Molseed, *T. ehrenbergii* (Schltdl.) Molseed, *T. galanthoides* Molseed, *T. hallbergii* Molseed, *T. molseediana* Ravenna and *T. vanhouttei* (Baker) Espejo & López-Ferrari) because of the following features. Tepals occur in two series of markedly unequal length, the inner ones ovate to orbicular, without a spreading limb, rounded at the base, and with a very small claw. The inner tepals and gland shape of *T. mariaetrinitatis* most closely resemble those of *T. hallbergii* and *T. bicolor*, however the former has pendulous flowers and *T. bicolor* differs from the species here proposed in the size and color of flowers.

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Fig. 4. *Tigridia mariaetrinitatis* Espejo & López-Ferrari in its natural habitat.

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