

**A NEW SPECIES OF *TRIDAX* (ASTERACEAE, MILLERIEAE)  
FROM OAXACA, MEXICO**

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**ABSTRACT**

A new taxon, ***Tridax paneroi*** B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** is described from western Oaxaca, Mexico. It is closely related to the rarely collected species, *T. purpurea* and *T. oaxacana*, but readily distinguished from both by several characters. A photograph of the type is presented, along with a map showing distributions of the taxa concerned. *Phytologia* 94(2): 169-173 (August 1, 2012).

**KEY WORDS:** Asteraceae, Heliantheae, *Tridax*, *T. purpurea*, *T. oaxacana*, Mexico, Oaxaca

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Identification of Mexican Asteraceae, and preparation of a treatment of The Comps of Mexico (cf Turner 2010), has occasioned the present paper.

**TRIDAX PANEROI** B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** **Fig. 1**

Resembling *Tridax oaxacana* B. L. Turner but with larger, more lanceolate leaves, 4-6 times as long as wide; (vs more nearly ovate and 2-3 times as long as wide); petioles 1-3 cm long (vs petioles 0-2 mm long), and disc florets greenish-yellow (vs purple-black).

Tap-rooted perennial herbs, 1.0-1.5 m high. Mid-stems 4-5 mm thick, simple, mostly unbranched, pubescent with eglandular hairs ca 1 mm long, these occasionally interspersed with a few glandular hairs. Leaves (at or near mid-stem) 6-10 cm long, 1.5-3.0 cm wide; blades linear-lanceolate, having a single prominent mid-rib, sparsely pubescent above and below, especially along the margins, the latter remotely

serrate; petioles 1-3 cm long, grading into the blades. Capitulescence a terminal, markedly open, long, lax panicle of 3-4 heads, the ultimate peduncles 6-15 cm long, glandular-pubescent to nearly glabrous. Heads campanulate, ca 2 cm high, 1.5 cm wide. Involucral bracts, numerous, glabrous, 2-6 seriate, markedly imbricate, their apices obtuse or rounded. Receptacle convex, ca 3 mm across; pales linear-lanceolate, ca 10 mm long, their apices acute. Ray florets 3, pistillate, fertile; ligules purple ("magenta" or "morales-rosa"), ca 1 cm long, 0.5-0.8 cm wide; tubes ca 8 mm long. Disk florets 30-40 per head; tubes ca 2 mm long, appressed-pubescent; throats 6-7 mm long, pubescent below, glabrous above, the 5 lobes ca 1.5 mm long. Anthers pale-purplish, the apical appendages glabrous, eglandular. Achenes, of ray and disc florets similar; body ca 4 mm long, densely upwardly appressed-pubescent; pappus of ca 20 pubescent, subulate, scales ca 1.2 mm long. Chromosome number,  $n = 10$  pairs, this from the type itself (Strother and Panero, 2001).

The species is named for my fellow colleague and exceptional scholar of the Asteraceae, Prof. Jose Panero, University of Texas, Austin.

**TYPE: MEXICO. OAXACA: Distrito Tlaxiaco. Mpio. San Pedro Molines,** "Km 64 carretera Tlaxiaco-Putla," 17 13 34 N, 97 43 04.5 W, 1950 m, "Creciendo en bosque de pino-encino." 16 Oct 1994, *Jose L. Panero 5049* (Holotype: TEX; isotypes MEXU, MSC).

**ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED: MEXICO. OAXACA:** reportedly, same location as holotype, but 2200 m, 14 Oct 1991, *Panero 2474* (TEX).

In my original description of *Tridax oaxacana* (Turner, 1988), I compared it to *T. purpurea* Blake, the latter a poorly collected species previously accounted for by only a few collections from Guatemala (Nash and Williams, 1976; Powell 1965); Strother (1999) called attention to a recent record from Chiapas, Mexico, this the basis for the collection shown in Fig. 3. *Tridax paneroi* has the stiffly erect habit of *T. oaxacana*, but the greenish-yellow heads of *T. purpurea*. The following key, along with a map showing distributions (Fig. 2), should help identify the taxa concerned:

- 1. Disk corollas purple-black; larger leaves ovate, 4-7 cm long, the petioles 0-2 mm long.....**T. oaxacana**
- 1. Disk florets greenish-yellow; larger leaves lanceolate, 7-10 cm long, the petioles 3-10 mm long...(2)
- 2. Plants sprawling or subdecumbent, 0.4-0.7 m high; eastern Chiapas and Guatemala.....**T. purpurea**
- 2. Plants stiffly erect, 1.0-1.5 m high; western Oaxaca.....**T. paneroi**

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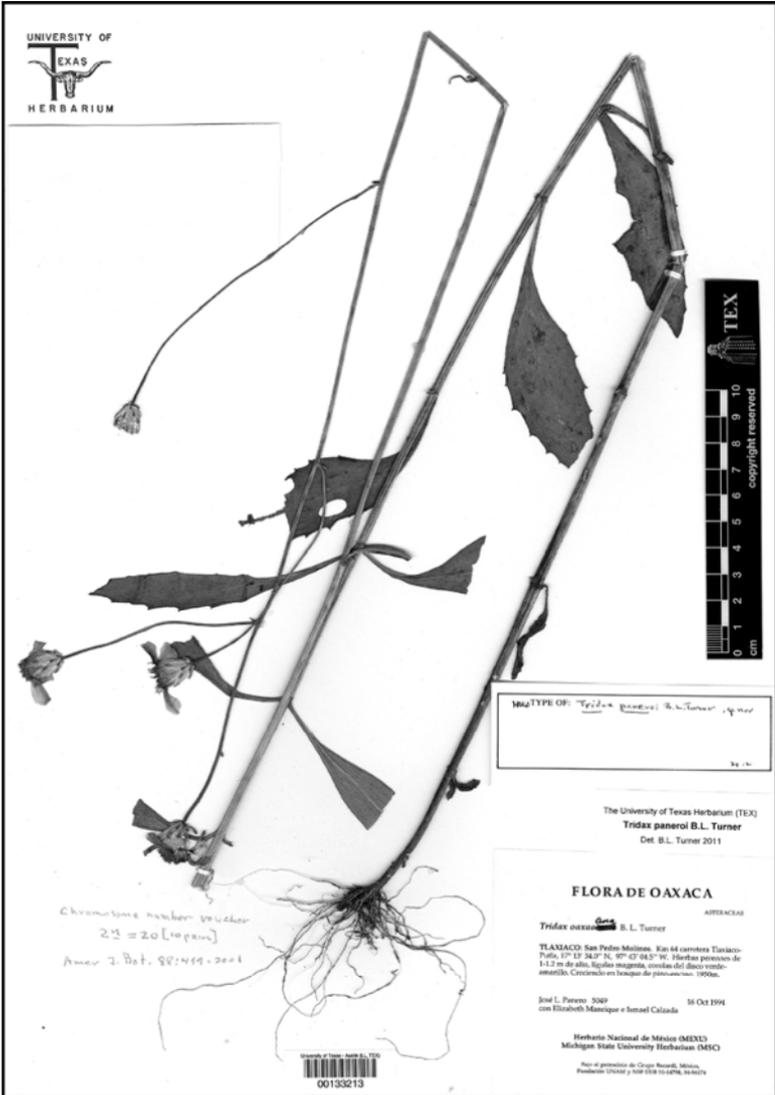


Fig. 1. Photograph of *Tridax paneroi* (Holotype: TEX).

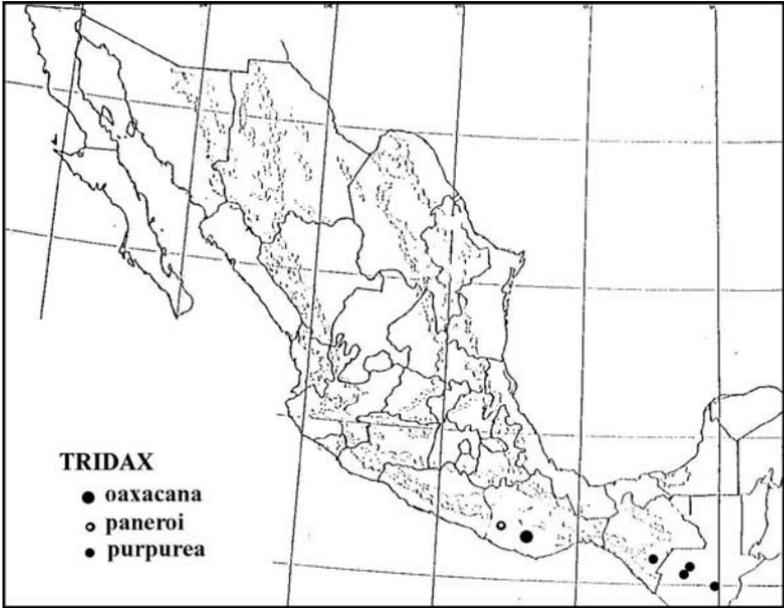


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Tridax paneroi* and cohorts.