

Legitimacy of the name *Croton bigbendensis* (Euphorbiaceae)

Billie L. Turner
Plant Resources Center, The University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712
billie.turner@austin.utexas.edu

ABSTRACT

The legitimacy of the name *Croton bigbendensis* is discussed and the circumstances concerning the issuance of a Holotype based on pistillate and staminate plants explained. Published on-line www.phytologia.org *Phytologia* 99(1): 36-37 (Jan 19, 2017). ISSN 030319430.

KEY WORDS: *Croton bigbendensis*, nomenclature, holotype.

Turner (2004) published the name **Croton bigbendensis** B.L. Turner, this largely confined to the southern Big Bend region of western Texas. The taxon was typified by a single collection (composed of several plants) at the same place at the same time. Because the population was composed of both pistillate and staminate plants, I provided the number *Turner 22-204A* for the pistillate plants and *Turner 22-204b* for the staminate plants. The plants concerned clearly belonged to the same collection, all bearing the same number, although I did designate a pistillate plant from the population as the Holotype, however, my intent was to treat *Turner 22-204* (both A and b) as holotype material, this clearly stated and so pictured in my figures 1 and 2. But some purists (cf. discussion provided by Wiersema 2016) view such typification as contrary to the Code, contending that only a single plant number should have been applied to the Holotype, thus invalidating the name, although my application of such was quite clear, this discussed further in more detail by my archrival, Henrickson (2010), who would recognize my novelty as but a variety, at best, this after a lengthy digression into my systematic mores.

Strangely, W. van Ee and Berry (2016), did not account for the name **C. bigbendensis** in their treatment of *Croton* for the Flora of North America, nor did they mention the work of Henrickson. I would like to place on record here that I believe the name **C. bigbendensis** B.L. Turner is properly typified and deserves recognition, as justified in the above. As to the taxonomic criticism of the taxon posited by Henrickson, I leave such evaluation to future workers having not the bias Henrickson and I both possess.

An up to date distributional map of **C. bigbendensis** is provided in the present account (Fig. 1), this part of my Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Texas (Turner 2017, in prep.).

LITERATURE CITED

- Ee, W. van and P.E Berry. 2016. *Croton*, in N. Amer. Fl. 12: 206-224.
Henrickson, J. 2010. *Croton bigbendensis* Turner (Euphorbiaceae) Revisited. J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 4: 295-301.
Turner, B.L. 2004. *Croton bigbendensis* (Euphorbiaceae), a new species from Trans-Pecos, Texas. SIDA 21: 79-85.
Turner, B.L. 2017. Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Texas [2nd edition, in prep].
Wiersema, J.H. 2016. Proposal to provide a more direct definition of the term "gathering". Taxon 65: 1186.

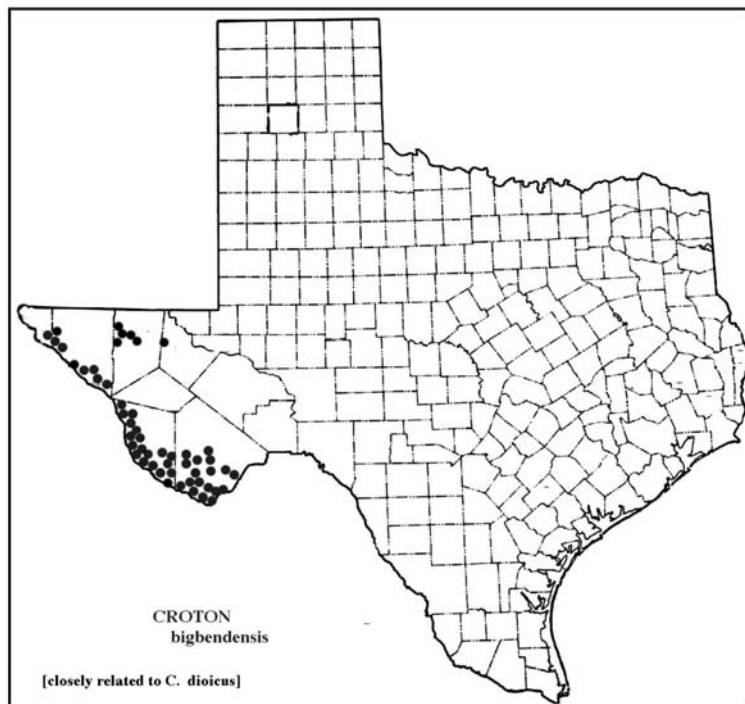


Figure 1. Distribution of *Croton bigbendensis* in Texas.