

**A NEW SPECIES OF PHASARIA (BRASSICACEAE)
FROM NORTHCENTRAL MEXICO**

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Phasaria vigana* B. L. Turner, is described from the state of Coahuila, Mexico. It is known only from limestone cliffs in the Sierra Vigas at altitudes of 11, 000-11, 600 ft. and appears to be most closely related to *P. mexicana*, although it differs markedly in habit, and characters of the inflorescence. A photograph of the type is provided.

KEY WORDS: Brassicaceae, *Physaria*, Mexico, Coahuila

Routine identification of Mexican plants has revealed the following novelty:

***Phasaria vigana* B. L. Turner, sp. nov.** Fig. 1

Physariae mexicanae (Rollins) O'Kane & Al-Shehb. similes sed differt habitu acaulescenti, radicibus pararibus ligneis incrassatis, et petalis luteis (?) ac majoribus (9-10 mm longis vs. 5-8 mm).

Caespitose thick-stemmed perennials 2-3 cm high. Leaves linear-lanceolate, silvery pubescent, 1.5-2.5 cm long, 1.0-1.5 cm wide; trichomes sessile, peltate, ca. 0.25 mm across, the rays completely fused, or nearly so. **Sepals** 4-5 mm long, ca. 2 mm wide, pubescent like the leaves. Pedicels 8-10 mm long. **Petals** broadly obovate, seemingly yellow, 9-10 mm long, ca. 5 mm wide, the claws inconspicuous (ca. 1 mm long). **Single stamens** ca. 5 mm long, thickened and somewhat dilated at the base; paired stamens ca. 6 mm

long, otherwise like the singles; glandular tissue weakly developed, if at all. **Capsule** ovoid, ca. 2 mm high, 1.5 mm wide, glabrous; ovules 4 per carpel.

TYPE: MEXICO. COAHUILA: Sierra de Viga, ca. "29 (air) miles E of Saltillo, on the SE slopes of the Mt., ca. 6 miles E of Jame...near summit of Cerro San Rafael, on limestone cliff faces." (ca. 25 21N, 100 32 W), 11,000-11,600 ft., 15 May 1977, *James Henrickson 16135* (Holotype: TEX).

In the treatment of Rollins and Shaw (1973), and Rollins (1993), this novelty, because of its peltate vestiture, will key to or near *Physaria mexicana*. In addition to its distribution (Fig. 2), the latter differs from *P. vigana* in a number of characters, as indicated in the above diagnosis. Indeed, it is perhaps likely that *P. vigana* is a localized subalpine endemic that has evolved out of *P. mexicana*. Rollins and Shaw (1973) note that the latter taxon has white or lavender petals, and that it occurs in the Sierra Azul, Sierra Encantada, Sierra de la Madera, Sierra Negra and Sierra Parras at elevations of "5, 000 to 7, 500 feet." This stands in marked contrast with the altitude given on the type of *P. vegana*. Whether or not the latter has yellow petals (when fresh), remains to be seen; however, the dried petals, to my eye at least, appear to be yellow.

The species is named for the Sierra in which it was first collected.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to my colleague, Guy Nesom, for reviewing the paper and providing the Latin diagnosis.

LITERATURE CITED

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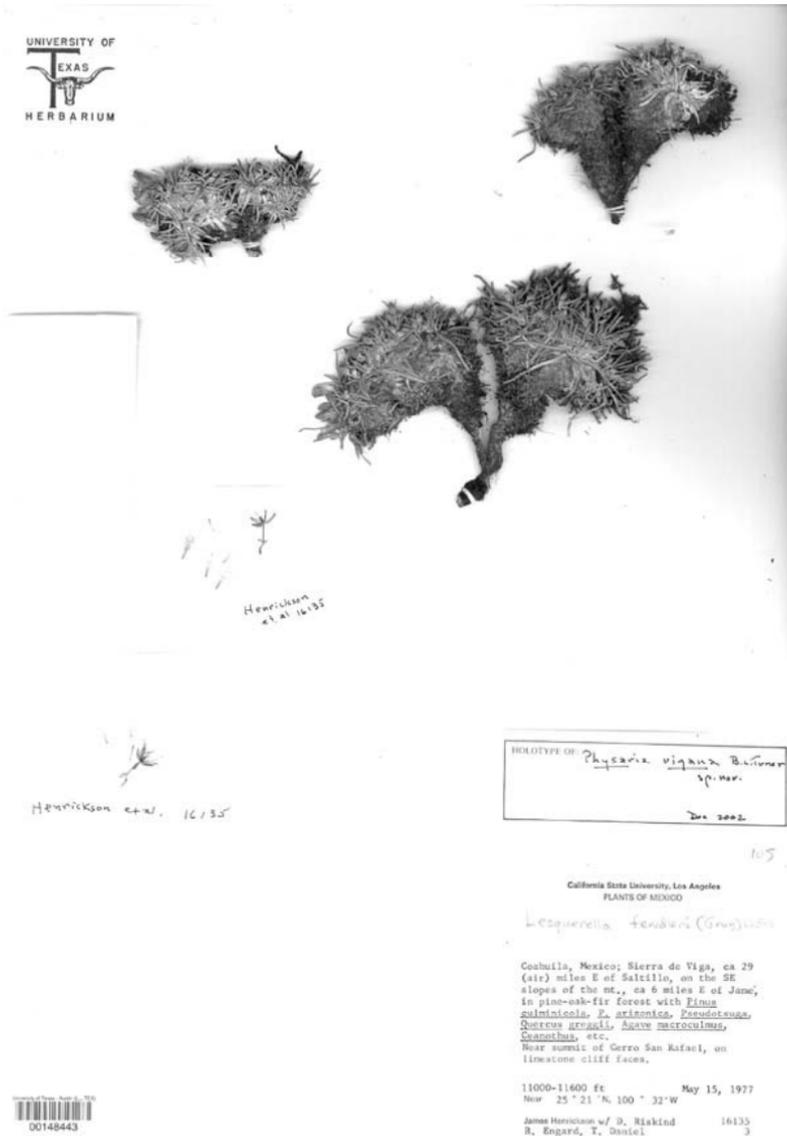


Fig. 1 Holotype of *Phasaria virgata*.

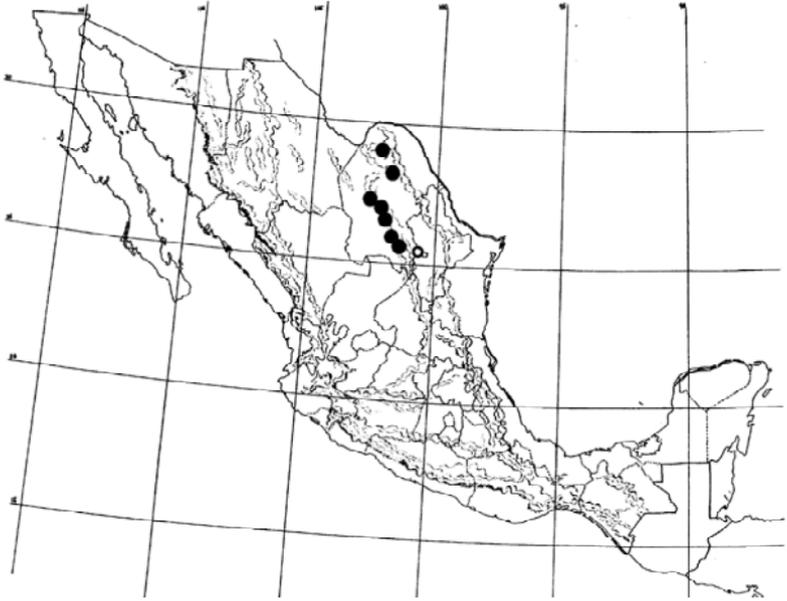


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Physaria mexicana* (dots), and *P. vigana* (circle).