

**A NEW VARIETY OF *CALEA MEGACEPHALA*
(ASTERACEAE: HELIANTHEAE) FROM OAXACA, MEXICO**

Billie L. Turner

Plant Resources Center
The University of Texas
Austin, Texas 78712
billie@uts.cc.utexas.edu

Identification of Mexican Asteraceae has occasioned description of the following novelty:

Calea megacephala B.L. Rob. & Greenm. var. **pachutlana** B.L. Turner, **var. nov.** Fig. 1.

Caleae megacephalae similes sed differt foliis angustioribus, involucris minoribus (ca 18 mm longis vs 20-23 mm), pedunculis brevioribus (25-30 cm longis vs 40-50 cm), et trichomatibus subter capitula brevioribus (minus quam 1 mm longis vs 1.5-3.0 mm).

TYPE: MEXICO. OAXACA: Distr. Pachutla, Mpio. Pluma Hidalgo, ca 9 mi N of Pachutla, southern slopes of Cerro Espina, 23 Aug 1980, *B.L. Turner 80A-29* (TEX).

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MEXICO. OAXACA: Distr. Pachutla, Mpio. San Miguel del Puerto. "Comunidad, el Encinal. Bosque de Encino." ca 972 m, 5 Nov 2003, *Pascual 893* (TEX); "Rancho de Jorge Palacio Aragon. Selva mediana subperrenifolia." ca 986 m, 2 Oct 2006, *Pascual 1979* (TEX); 800 m NE of Rancho San Agustín, 930 m, 23 Aug 2001, *Saves V. 2537* (TEX).

The variety is named for the Distrito in which first collected, and perhaps confined.

The type of *Calea megacephala* is from Chiapas, Mexico, first described in 1896 by Robinson and Greenman. Brandegee (1914),

unaware of its existence, redescribed the taxon as belonging to the newly erected monotypic genus *Tonalanthus*, this subsequently called to the fore by Rzedowski (1986). Wussow et al. (1985) retained the species in *Calea*, noting its similarity to a number of caleoid herbaceous taxa from Central and South America, these belonging to the subgenus *Leontophthalamum*, which seems to be the case.

Nevertheless, species of the subgenus *Calea* (typified by the shrubby species, *C. jamaicensis*) are very different from those of the subgenus *Leontophthalamum* (especially in gynecial characters), and it is likely that the latter will ultimately be subsumed under the earliest available generic name, *Tonalanthus*.

Key to varieties:

- 1. Peduncles 25-35 cm long; hairs beneath head less than 1 mm long; leaves 4-6 cm wide; vicinity of Pachutla, Oaxvar. **pachutlana**
- 1. Peduncles 40-50 cm long; hairs beneath head 1.5-3.0 mm long; leaves 6-9 cm wide; Chiapas and closely adjacent Oaxacavar. **megacephala**

Populations of the two varieties recognized here are well separated geographically and apparently by elevation (above 1000 m in pine forests; below 1000 m in oak forests), to judge from label data, although the typical var. *megacephala* has been collected at least once in easternmost Oaxaca (as reported by Wussow et al. 1985) near the border of Chiapas (Fig.1, based upon holdings at TEX). Strother (1999) provides an excellent description of var. *megacephala* based upon a number of specimens that I have not examined. If accurately described, it is clear that the two varieties intergrade in at least a few of their characters, but perhaps not in combination. Finally, it should be noted that the only chromosome count reported for *C. megacephala* (n = 19 pairs) was obtained from the type of var. *pachutlana*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to my colleague Guy Nesom for the Latin diagnosis and for helpful comments on the manuscript itself.

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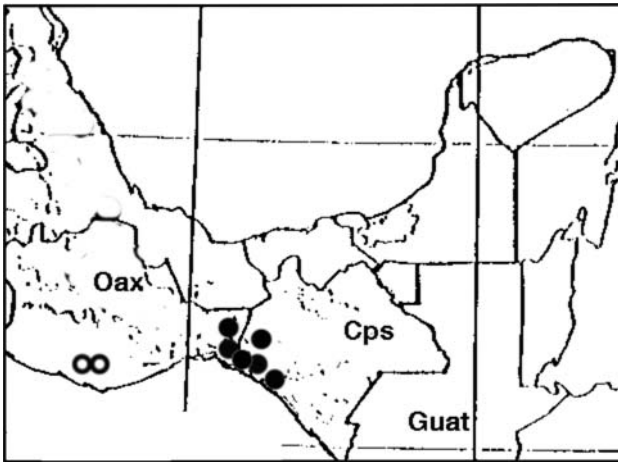


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Calea megaphylla*: var. *megaphylla* (dots); var. *pachutlana* (circles).