

**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

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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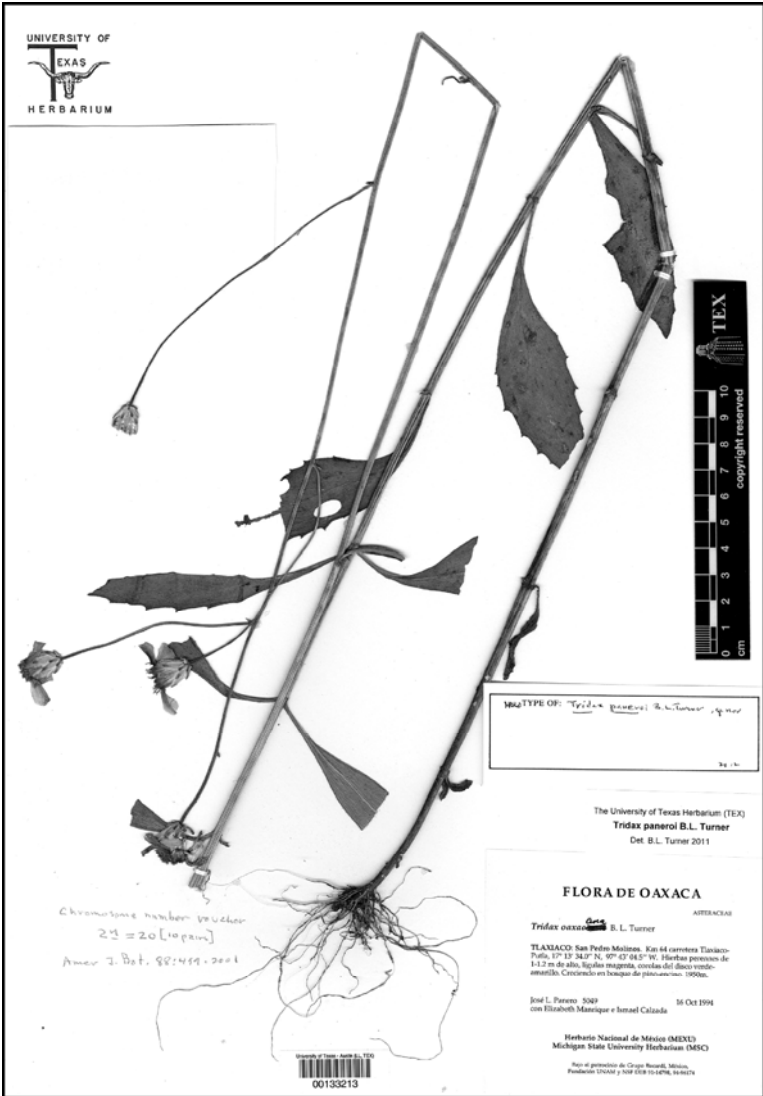


Fig. 1. Photograph of *Tridax paneroi* (Holotype: TEX).



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