

***Eucnide lobata* (Loasaceae), first record for the U. S. A.**

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ABSTRACT

Eucnide lobata, previously known only from northeastern Mexico, has now been collected in southern Texas, along the Rio Grande in Starr County (just SE of Rio Grande City). A voucher specimen of the collection is cited and pictures of the living plants in the field are provided. A map showing its distribution in Mexico and Texas is included. Published on-line: www.phytologia.org *Phytologia* 95(1): 115-117 (Feb. 1, 2013).

KEY WORDS: Loasaceae, *Eucnide*, *E. lobata*, Texas, Starr County, Mexico, U.S.A.

About five years ago, a specimen of the genus *Eucnide* was sent by the second author to the University of Texas Herbarium (TEX) for deposition in that collection. Having worked on the genus *Eucnide*, the first author recognized immediately that it was a new record for the state, recorded it so, and provided a new map for the taxon in his soon to be updated *Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Texas* (Turner et al. 2003). There it remained until the Curator of the Herbarium suggested that it be called to the attention of plant enthusiasts of the state, hence the present paper. The specimen concerned follows:

TEXAS. STARR CO.: "Hill with large cross, just SE of Rio Grande City." Growing on limestone rocks, 25 Nov 2005, *Alfred Richardson & Ken King 3350* (TEX).

The seminal taxonomic treatment of *Eucnide* has been that of Thompson and Ernst (1967). In this they distinguish *E. lobata* from *E. bartonioides* by the following couplet:

Corolla rotate, to about 12 mm long or 2 cm wide.....**E. lobata**
Corolla open-funnelform and larger.....**E. bartonioides**

Yet other characters serve to distinguish between the two taxa, but need not be enumerated here, since their distributions show clearly to what population systems each belongs (Maps 1 and 2).

The two collectors, in their exceptional text, *Plants of Deep South Texas* (Richardson and King 2011), accounted for the species, provided an excellent colored photograph, but identified the taxon as *E. bartonioides*, which is perhaps its closest relative (Turner 2012). In their text the authors note that the plant grows "on limestone cliffs in protected places," a typical habitat for most of the species in *Eucnide*; nevertheless, actual outcrops of limestone do not occur along the Rio Grande in that immediate area and the substrate is probably the calichified rocky alluvium widespread there. The collectors also noted that the population concerned consisted of ca. 15 plants (cf. Figs 1, 2).

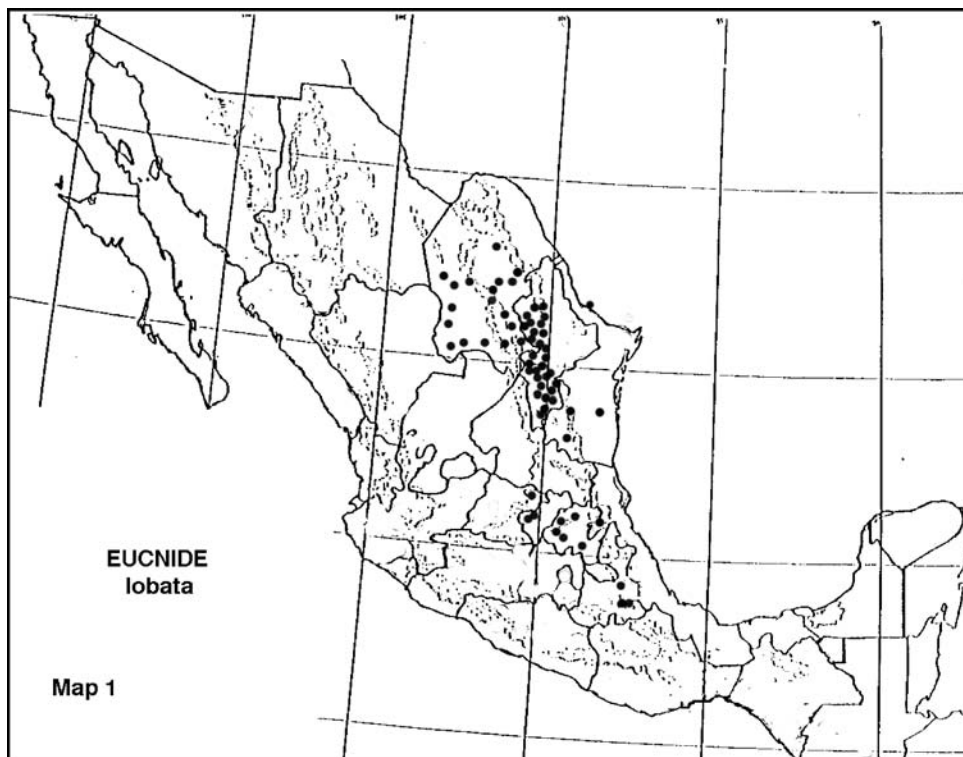
Examination of similar habitats in the region concerned might reveal yet other populations of the species concerned.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

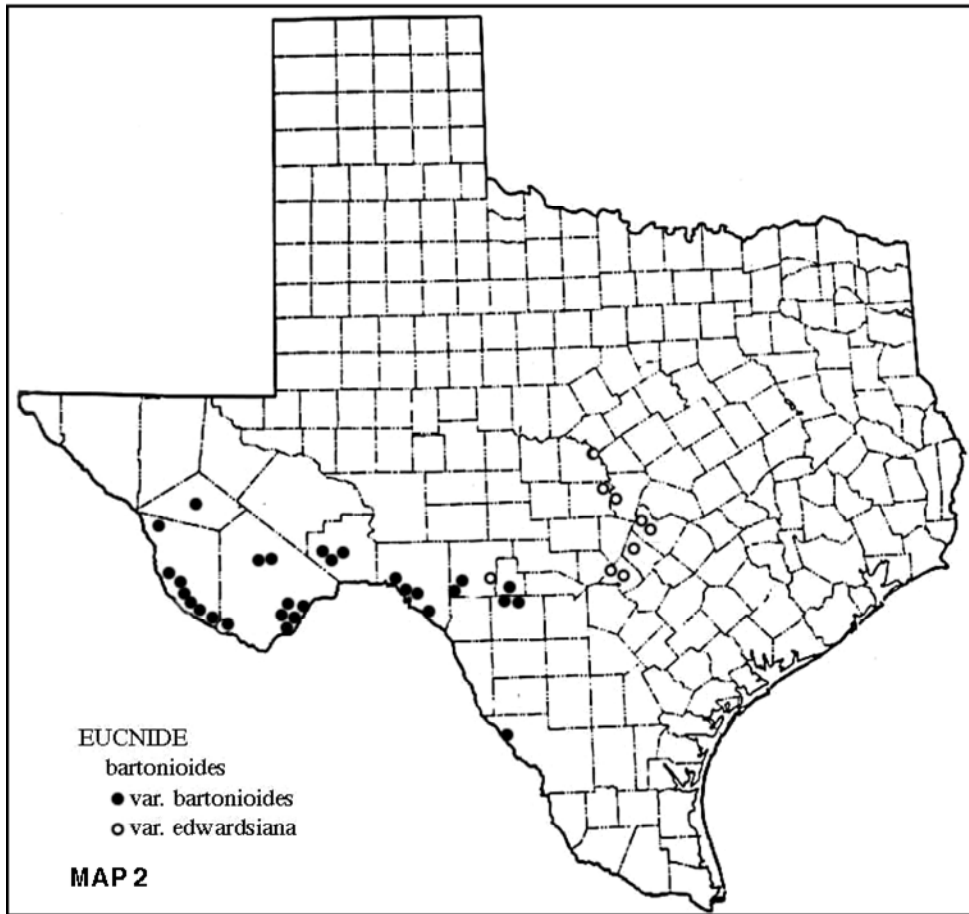
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Map 1. Distribution of *Eucnide lobata*.



Map 2. Distribution of *E. bartonioides* in Texas.



Figs 1, 2. *Eucnide lobata* (field site).