

A new species of *Lepechinia* (Lamiaceae) from Oaxaca, Mexico

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ABSTRACT

A new taxon, *Lepechinia oaxacana* B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.**, is described from southern Oaxaca. It is closely related to the recently described *L. flammea* of Guerrero, but differs in a syndrome of characters, mainly leaf size and floral features. A photograph of the holotype is provided, along with a distribution map of the taxa concerned. Published on-line: www.phytologia.org *Phytologia* 95(2): 138-140 (May 1, 2013).

KEY WORDS: Lamiaceae, Mexico, Guerrero, Oaxaca, *Lepechinia*, *L. flammea*, *L. glomerata*, *L. oaxacana*

Preoccupation with the Mexican species, *Lepechinia glomerata* Epling and cohorts, these clearly related to the Californian *L. calycina*, as documented by the DNA studies of Drew and Sytsma (2011), has occasioned the present paper. Early on, I was prepared to describe a novel taxon from the state of Guerrero, noting its many differences from the poorly known *L. glomerata*, but was pre-empted by the excellent study of Martinez-Gordillo and Lozado-Perez (2009), who proposed the name *L. flammea*, for my intended novelty (this to be based upon a single sheet, *Martinez et al. 4933*, TEX). Recent collections from Oaxaca, gathered through the support of SERBO, have revealed an additional novelty of the *L. glomerata* complex, this described below.

LEPECHINIA OAXACANA B.L. Turner, **sp. nov.** Fig. 1

Perennial herbs, to “1.5 m” high. **Stems** (upper), sparsely pubescent with crinkly, often branched, trichomes, 1.0-1.4 mm high, beneath these a denser array of minute glandular hairs ca 0.3 mm high. **Leaves** sessile, amplexicaule, 6-10 cm long, 2-3 cm wide; blades elliptic-lanceolate, widest near the middle, pubescent above and below, mainly along the venation. **Inflorescence** terminal, 10-15 cm high, 5-7 cm wide; peduncles ca 3 cm long; floral bracts (outer) broadly ovate, 8-10 mm long, and as wide, dark purplish; floriferous branches 2-3 cm long, each bearing 10-15 flowers, the ultimate pedicels ca 1 mm long. **Calyces** (flowering), ca 6 mm long; lobes 5, united for ca 3 mm, their apices triangular to lanceolate. **Corollas** 10-12 mm long; tube ca 3 mm long; throats “anaranjada,” 8-9 mm long, 3-4 mm wide, their apices not rosy in color (as in *L. flammea*). **Anthers** purple, ca 1 mm long, excurrent for 3-5 mm. **Nutlets**, black, smooth, 2.1-2.6 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm wide.

TYPE: MEXICO. OAXACA: Distrito Sola de Vega, Mpio. Santiago Textitlan, “Paraje abajo de El Portillo, Bosque de pino-encino. Suelo negro.” ca 1190 m, 16 43 58.2 N, 27 25 10.3 W, 08/01/07, *Idalia Trujillo Olazo* (ITO) 1336 (Holotype: TEX).

Lepechinia oaxacana is clearly closely related to the recently described *L. flammea* of Guerrero (Martinez-Gordillo and Lozado-Perez, 2009). The novelty differs in having a syndrome of distinctive characters: smaller foliage (mostly 6-10 cm long, 2-3 cm wide vs 10-20 cm long, 3-6 cm wide) smaller calyces (ca 6 mm long vs 9-11 mm); smaller corollas (10-12 mm long, 3-4 mm wide vs 16-20 mm long, 6-8 mm wide), their apices not notably rose-colored, or flame-like, as in *L. flammea* (hence its name).

The novelty is said to occur in pine-oak woodlands at an elevation of ca 1190 m; *L. flammea* reportedly occurs at somewhat higher elevations (2000-2700 m).

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LITERATURE CITED

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Fig. 1. *Lepechinia oaxacana* (Holotype: TEX).



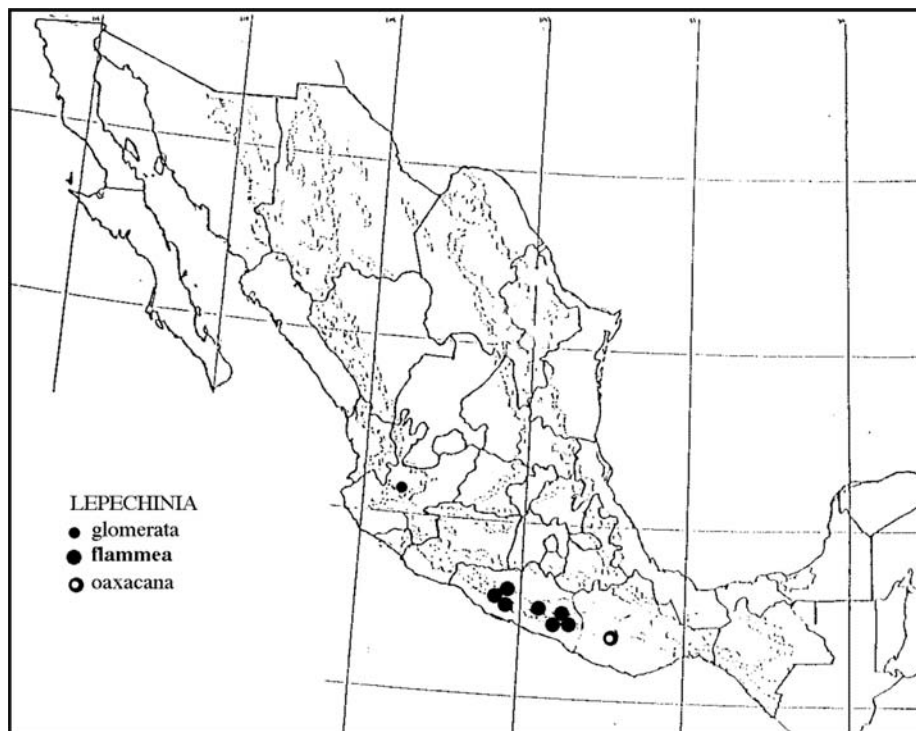


Fig. 2. Distribution of the *Lepechinia glomerata* complex in Mexico.