

A new species of *Heliomeris* (Asteraceae: Heliantheae) from Oaxaca, Mexico**Billie L. Turner**

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ABSTRACT

A novel taxon, ***Heliomeris serboana*** B.L. Turner **sp. nov.**, is described from pine forests of Oaxaca, Mexico. It is closely related to the more northern *H. multiflora* Nutt., but differs by numerous characters, including habit, foliage and structure of the heads. A photograph of the type is provided, along with a map showing its distribution and that of *H. multiflora*.

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KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Heliantheae, *Heliomeris*, Mexico, Oaxaca

Routine identification of a large assemblage of Comps from Oaxaca, Mexico, gathered by SERBO has occasioned the present paper. The novelty was an unexpected find since I recently provided a treatment of *Heliomeris* for Mexico (Turner 2012) and the taxon was not accounted for among the large assemblage of plants studied; it is a pleasure to name the novelty for the organization that founded their assemblage, SERBO.

HELIOMERIS SERBOANA B.L. TURNER, sp. nov. Fig. 1

Diffusely branched herbs, or shrublets, to 1 m high. **Mid-stems** glabrous or nearly so. **Leaves** opposite throughout, 10-15 cm long, 3-5 cm wide; petioles slender, 0.5-2.0 cm long; blades ovate, 3-nervate from the very base, glabrous above and below, or nearly so; margins weakly serrate, if at all, the apices acuminate. **Capitulescences** both terminal and axillary, arranged in 5-15 headed cymose panicles, the ultimate peduncles 4-8 mm long. **Heads** 6-8 mm high, 3-5 mm wide (rays excluded). **Involucral bracts** (outer): 4-5, ca 3 mm long; inner bracts, 6-7 mm long. Receptacle convex, ca 1.5 mm across, paleate. **Ray florets** 3-5, neuter; corollas yellow, the rays 5-8 mm long. **Disk florets**, ca 10 to a head; corollas yellow, ca 4 mm long, sparsely pubescent; throat ca 1 mm long; lobes 5, ca 0.5 mm long. **Achenes** ca 3 mm long, epappose, glabrous, striate.

TYPE: MEXICO. OAXACA: Distrito, Sola de Vega; Mpio. Santiago Textitlan, “La Yerba Santa.” Pine forests, ca 2456 m, 16 39 43.5 N, 97 15 53.4 W, 19 Feb 2007, *Maria Ester Jacob Salinas 1602* (Holotype: TEX).

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: [essentially same locality as TYPE]: “A u lado de la Hierba Santa.” ca 1708 m, 19 39 53.5N, 97 16 10.2 W, 19 Feb 2007, *Salinas 1632* (TEX). “El Arroyo de la Cruz. Bosque de pino. Orilla de arroyo o rio.” ca 2692 m, 16 41 25.6 N, 97 15 54.8 W, 24 Feb 2007, *Salinas 1658* (TEX).

The type is described as an “arbusto,” 1 m high; the additional collection is described as a “Bejuco [a vine].” Both collections appear to be suffruticose herbs or shrublets

The following key to the Mexican species of *Heliomeris*, as modified from Turner (2012), should serve to identify members of the complex as currently known:

1. Leaves and stems coarsely hispid-pubescent throughout, the longer hairs 1.5-2.0 mm long; a relatively rare species of wet places or standing water; Son, Chi.....**H. hispida**
1. Leaves and stems not as above, at least some, or most of the hairs softer and shorter, 0.5-1.5 mm long(2)
2. Leaf blades broadly ovate to deltoid, 1-2 times as long as wide, the margins serrate; se Pue and adjacent Oax**H. obscura**
2. Leaf blades lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 3-8 times as long as wide, the margins entire or nearly so; widespread(3)
3. Leaves 2-5 cm wide; ray florets 3-5; disc florets ca 10 per head; Oax.....**H. serboana**
3. Leaves 0.5-1.5 cm wide; ray florets 8-15; disc florets numerous per head; not known in Oax.**H. multiflora**

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My research colleague, Jana Kos, provided helpful editorial input, for which I am grateful. The distribution map (Fig. 2) is based upon specimens on file at LL-TEX, except for the collections of *H. multiflora* from the vicinity of San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, which are based upon specimens referred to as *H. longifolia* by Strother (1999).

LITERATURE CITED

- Strother, J.L. 1999. *Heliomeris*, in Flora of Chiapas, Calif Acad. Sci., pt. 5: 56-57.
- Turner, B.L. 2012. Mexican species of *Heliomeris* (Asteraceae: Heliantheae). *Phytologia* 94: 237-244.



Fig. 1. *Heliomeris serboana* (Isotype: TEX).

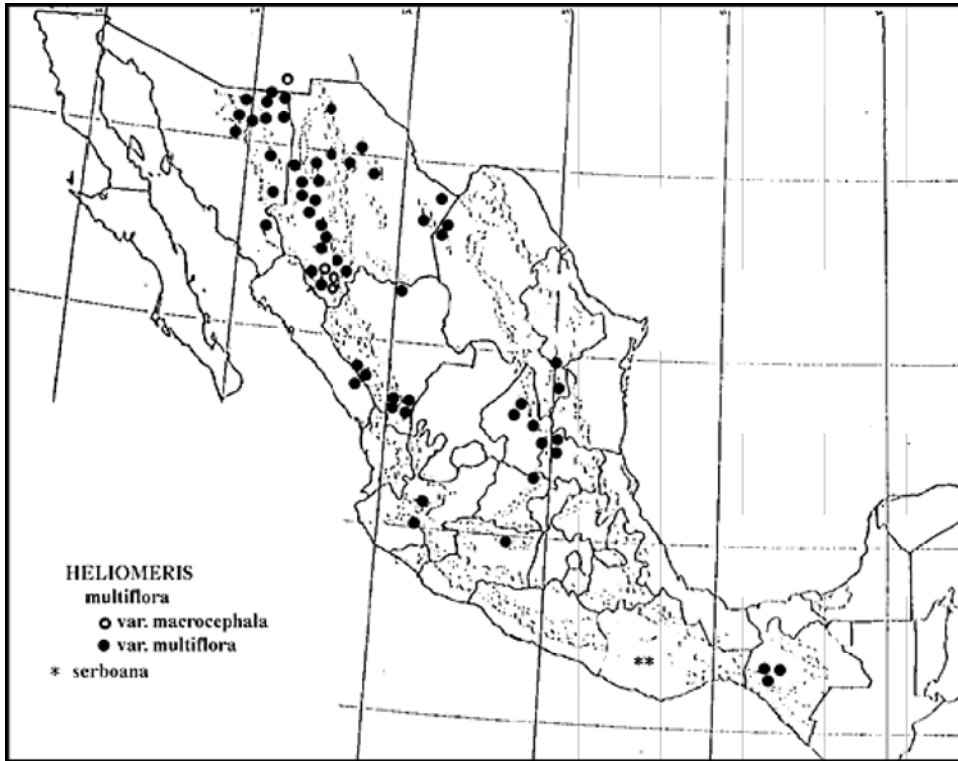


Fig. 2. Distribution of *Heliomeris multiflora* and *H. serboana* in Mexico.