

**ELEVATION OF TWO VARIETAL TAXA OF *PERYMENIUM*
(ASTERACEAE, HELIANTHEAE) TO SPECIFIC RANK**

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ABSTRACT

Perymenium hintoniorum var. *gypsophilum* B.L.Turner and *P. buphthalmoides* var. *sonoranum* B. L. Turner are elevated to specific rank, necessitating the following new combinations: **P. gypsophilum** (B.L. Turner) B.L. Turner, **stat. nov.**, and **P. sonoranum** (B.L. Turner) B.L. Turner, **stat. nov.** Both taxa are native to Mexico, the latter to the states of Chihuahua and Sonora, the former to Nuevo Leon.

KEY WORDS: *Perymenium*, Asteraceae, Mexico, Sonora, Nuevo Leon

Additional collections of the genus *Perymenium* over the past ten years or so have suggested that the following varietal taxa are worthy of specific rank:

Perymenium gypsophilum (B.L. Turner) B.L. Turner, **stat. nov.**
Based upon *Perymenium hintoniorum* var. *gypsophilum* B.L. Turner, Phytologia 79: 343. 1995.

The distinctions between var. *gypsophilum* and the typical var. *hintoniorum* called to the fore by Turner (1995) continue to hold and, combined with its edaphic endemism, I have little hesitation in elevating this to specific status.

Perymenium sonoranum (B.L. Turner) B.L. Turner, **stat. nov.**
Based upon *Perymenium buphthalmoides* var. *sonoranum* B.L. Turner, Phytologia 64: 266. 1988.

At the time of its description (Turner 1988), only two sheets of this taxon were known, the type (from Sonora) and a Pennington collection from Chihuahua. Subsequently, one additional collection from Chihuahua has come to the fore (*Knoblock 5219*, MSC) and an additional 12 collections from Sonora (*Burquez 96-826, 96-923; Neff 8-17-19-11, 8-18-91-5; Reina 97-626, 97-1367, 2001-808; Traba s.n.* (19 Aug 1997); and *VanDevender 95-866A, 96-198, 97-704, 98-884*. Except for the Knoblock collection, all of the above vouchers are on file at LL, TEX.

Turner (1988) compared var. *sonoranum* with the typical var. *buphthalmoides*. However, he noted that the variety was "A very distinct taxon, perhaps deserving of specific rank." This has proved to be the case, the syndrome of characters concerned being quite uniform among the specimens cited, and all are restricted to the same general region of the Sonoran Desert, well removed from the range of var. *buphthalmoides*. I have no hesitation in hoisting the taxon to specific level.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Turner, B. L. 1991. *Perymenium hintoniorum* (Asteraceae, Heliantheae), a new species from Nuevo Leon, Mexico. *Phytologia* 71: 315-318.
- Turner, B. L. 1995. A new variety of *Perymenium hintoniorum* (Asteraceae, Heliantheae). *Phytologia* 79: 343-345.