XANTHISMA SPINULOSUM VAR. AUSTROTEXANUM
(ASTERACEAE: ASTEREEAE), AN ENDEMIC OF
SOUTHERNMOST TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Haplopappus texensis R.C. Jackson, heretofore ignored as a formal taxon within the Machaeranthera pinnatifida (Hook.) Shinners complex by the present author, is now accepted as a good taxon within the genus Xanthisma as X. spinulosum var. austrotexanum (R.C. Jackson) B.L. Turner, comb. & nom. nov. The taxon was also ignored in the treatment of Xanthisma by Morgan and Hartman (2003) but placed in synonymy with X. spinulosum var. spinulosum in the treatment of Hartman (2006) for the Flora of North America.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Machaeranthera, Xanthisma, Texas

According to DNA data the genus Machaeranthera, as conceived by Hartman (1990), is polyphyletic and has recently been reapportioned into four genera: Arida, Dieteria, Machaeranthera, and Xanthisma. Morgan and Hartman (2003) discussed the taxonomic implications of this fragmentation and have provided a nomenclature for the new phylogeny (Morgan and Hartman 2003; Hartman 2006). All four of these genera occur in Texas, and in the course of rearranging materials to accord with the new nomenclature I noted a group of plants from southernmost Texas belonging to the Xanthisma spinulosum complex that appeared to lack a formal name, hence the present paper.

Turner and Hartman (1976) treated Xanthisma spinulosum (= Machaeranthera pinnatifida) as having two allopatric subspecies: subsp. gooddingii, a western assemblage containing four intergrading
varieties; and a more eastern subsp. spinulosum containing three intergrading varieties. Within the latter subspecies, Turner and Hartman placed Haplopappus texensis R.C. Jackson in synonymy with M. pinnatifida var. pinnatifida noting, however, that the taxon concerned might be accorded varietal rank in due course, if not specific rank. At the time of its description, relatively few collections were known (mainly from the type locality). Regardless, in a numerical study of the Machaeranthera pinnatifida complex, Ramon (1968) demonstrated that topotypic material of Haplopappus texensis was "morphologically very distinct" from most other elements of the Machaeranthera pinnatifida complex. Indeed, he thought it deserving of specific rank. Nevertheless, by his data the taxon clustered with or near M. p. var. pinnatifida. Nevertheless, Hartman (2006) placed Haplopappus texensis in synonymy with Xanthisma spinulosum var. spinulosum without comment. Through some lapse, perhaps, he also excluded the distribution of var. spinulosum from Texas!

A number of new and old collections of the taxon concerned have been obtained in and about the region of Haplopappus texensis (Fig. 1). The characters (mainly stiffly erect unbranched habit, weakly incised leaves, and absence of glandular hairs) that distinguish it from its closest cohort, M. p. var. pinnatifida, hold up well, although the two taxa do appear to intergrade near regions of contact, hence my treatment of the taxon at the varietal level (putative intermediates between the taxa concerned are cited below).


I have taken up a new name for this varietal entity because of the well established Xanthisma texensis DC., which is a widespread species in Texas with several intergrading varieties. This should preclude future workers from becoming confused by the names concerned, and of course it will provide an epithet at species rank if
future workers were to re-elevate the taxon, as suggested by Ramon (1968) and its original author.


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**LITERATURE CITED**

Fig. 1. Distribution of *Xanthisma spinulosum* var. *austrotexanum*, var. *chihuahuanum* and var. *spinulosum* in Texas.