A NEW SPECIES OF FLAVERIA (ASTERACEAE, HELENIEAE) FROM OAXACA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species of Flaveria from Oaxaca, México, *F. kochiana* B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.*, is described. It is remarkable for its closely packed, terminal heads each cluster of which superficially resembles a single head (i.e., a syncephalum). The species is seemingly most closely related to *F. angustifolia* but is distinguished by a number of characters, most notably by the syncephalous capitulescence and very narrow entire leaves.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Helenieae, Flaveria, México, Oaxaca

Powell (1979) rendered an excellent taxonomic account of the genus Flaveria, recognizing 21 species, most of these occurring in México. The present description adds an additional, presumably quite localized endemic to the genus, the taxon occurring in a region where at least five or six other, relatively localized species occur.


*Flaveriae angustifoliae* (Cav.) Pers. similis sed differt foliis linear-lanceolatis 2-5 mm latis (vs. elliptici-lanceolatis 10-22 mm latis) et capitulis in capitulescentiis arcte congestis capitulis singulis similibus (*i.e.*, syncephala) dispositis.

Perennial suffruticose herbs 30 cm high or more. Leaves opposite, connate, mostly 4-9 cm long, 0.2-0.4 cm wide, linear-lanceolate, glabrous, or sparsely puberulous at the very base, the margins entire. Stems pubescent in lines but soon glabrescent, the internodes numerous and short (0.6-2.0 cm long). Heads densely congested into a compact terminal syncephalum, not at all forming a recognizable
branching system. Receptacle naked, glabrous. Involucre of 3-4 scarious bracts ca. 3 mm high. Ray florets yellow, pistillate, fertile, present in most of the heads, sometimes not; ligules 2-3 mm long, ca. 1 mm wide, yellow. Disk florets (2-)3-4 per head, fertile; corollas yellow, glabrous throughout; tubes 1.0-1.5 mm long, glabrous; throat (including lobes) 1.0-1.5 mm long, glabrous. Achenes of disk and ray florets similar, ca. 1.5 mm long, glabrous, epappose.

*Flaveria kochiana* will key to or near *F. angustifolia* (Cav.) Pers. in Powell's treatment (1979). It is markedly different from *F. angustifolia* in possessing very narrow leaves and a syncephalous capitulescence. Additionally, the individual heads of *F. kochiana* have fewer florets (mostly 3-4 vs. 5-7) with glabrous tubes (vs. puberulent).

It is a pleasure to name this remarkably distinct species in honor of Prof. S.D. Koch who has well served México in assembling a large number of plant collections at the School of graduate studies in Chapingo.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Dr. Guy Nesom for the Latin diagnosis, and to him and Piero Delprete for reviewing the paper.

REFERENCES