

A NEW SPECIES OF *LITHOSPERMUM* (BORAGINACEAE) FROM NUEVO LEON, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

Lithospermum hintoniorum is newly described and illustrated. It reportedly occurs in marshy areas of oak woodlands in southern Nuevo Leon, Mexico at elevations of about 1500 meters. It is seemingly most closely related to the widespread *L. calycosum* but is distinguished by a number of characters, including both vegetative and floral features.

RESUMEN

Se describe y se ilustra ***Lithospermum hintoniorum***. Se ha localizado en áreas encharcadas de robledales en el sur de Nuevo León, México en elevaciones de unos 1500 metros. Parece ser que su pariente más cercano es el muy frecuente *L. calycosum* del que se diferencia por varios caracteres, tanto vegetativos como florales.

Routine identification of Hinton collections from northeastern Mexico has revealed the following novelty:

Lithospermum hintoniorum B.L. Turner, sp. nov. (**Fig. 1**). TYPE: MEXICO. NUEVO LEON: Mpio. Aramberri, San Juan de Aviles, "Marsh in oak woods," ca. 1480 m, 13 May 1992, *Hinton et al.* 21950 (HOLOTYPE: TEX; ISOTYPES: personal collections of the collectors).

Simile *Lithospermo calycosa*, lobos corollarum noncrenulatos, nuculasque majoris (ca. 3 mm altas vice 2 mm) et griseas.

Perennial herbs 12–17 cm high, the stems seemingly recumbent and arising from woody roots which exude a violet-colored dye. Leaves basal at first, but soon developing 20 or more overlapping cauline leaves, these gradually reduced upwards and grading into the floral bracts; blades linear-lanceolate to lanceolate, essentially nonvenose, except for the midribs, the surfaces appressed-strigose, the undersurfaces having finer hairs, the upper surfaces with coarser hairs having attractive flattened basal cells 0.15–0.30 mm across. Inflorescence decidedly scorpioid, having numerous bracteate pale yellow flowers. Sepals 5, linear, mostly 7–9 mm long, moderately pubescent without, glabrous within, weakly glandular at the throat, markedly nodular-annulate at or near the base; lobes 5, ovate, 1.4–1.6 mm long, 1.0–1.2 mm wide. Anthers 5, dorsifixed, ca. 1.7 mm long, inserted in the throat but not exceeding the lobes. Styles ca. 11 mm long, glabrous, minutely bifid at apex. Nutlets 2–4, glossy-gray, not at all ornamented, ca. 2 mm high, 1.5 mm wide, basally attachment ca. 2 mm across.

The relationship of this taxon among Mexican species of *Lithospermum* is



FIG. 1. *Lithospermum hintoniorum*. Freshly dug garden-grown plants from material obtained at the type locality.

moot. Assuming the plants to be consistently homostylous with weakly developed faucal appendages, it will begrudgingly key to *L. calycosum* (Macbride) I.M. Johnst. in Johnston's (1952) treatment of *Lithospermum*, to which it is compared in the above diagnosis. It differs in having much larger, broader, leaves, noncrenulate corolla lobes, and larger (ca. 3 mm high vs 2 mm), glossy-gray nutlets.

It is a pleasure to name this species for the remarkable Hinton family, who first collected the taxon. When first sent to me for identification I recognized it as possibly new but lacked fruiting material for descriptive purposes. George Hinton (son of the living Jaime Hinton, and grandson of the legendary plant collector, George B. Hinton) kindly sent me mature seeds nine years after its initial collection, these obtained from garden grown plants collected at the type locality. I am grateful to him for such diligence.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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REFERENCE

- JOHNSTON, I.M. 1952. Studies in the Boraginaceae, XXIII. Survey of the genus *Lithospermum*. J. Arnold Arbor. 33:299–363.