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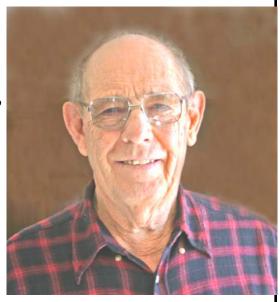
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The New Mexican from Texas: Charles R. Hutchins

by Gene Jercinovic

One day in 1969, a forty-one year old plant collector was working in the Bonito Canyon area in the Sacramento Mountains in Otero County, New Mexico. He came down to his vehicle and discovered a stranger nearby. The stranger said that he had noticed plant presses in the vehicle and wondered who could be collecting in the area. The plant collector was Charles Robert Hutchins, commonly known as Bob, who a dozen years later would be the co-author of A Flora of New *Mexico* with William C. Martin. The stranger was Donovan Correll, who a decade later would be the co-author of the Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas with Marshall C. Johnston.

Bob Hutchins was born on May 26, 1928 to William C. and Exa Hutchins in Atwell in Callahan County, Texas, about 30 miles east of Abilene. After three years, the family



moved to a farm near Content, Texas in Runnels County, roughly 30 miles south of Abilene. Bob started his education at the Content School, which had 4 or 5 rooms. Two grades were housed in each room. The High School was in nearby Lawn. At the time Texas schools only went through the 11th grade. Bob graduated in 1945. During his high school years he was a typical farm boy. He had no particular interest in science or plants.

He decided to go directly to college. He thought about becoming an engineer, but decided on Agricultural Education. He chose to attend John Tarleton Agricultural College, a two-year institution in Stephenville, 90 miles east of Abilene. There he met Imogene "Gene" Schrank. At the end of two years, they decided to continue their education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, graduating in May 1950. The couple married in June.

Bob's degree was in Agricultural Education. In July 1950 he accepted a job as an Ag teacher in Westbrook, Texas, which he described as "...a wide place in the road between Big Spring and Colorado City." Throughout his college years, Bob had been active in ROTC. During the fall of 1950, Korean War hostilities began to intensify and it was inevitable that Bob would be called into service. The United States Army summoned him early in 1951.

By February he was a soldier at Ft. Hood in Killeen, Texas, as a member of the 2nd Armored Division. In July, his unit was deployed to Germany near Mannheim. Gene was pregnant with the Hutchins' first son James and went to live with her parents in Hamilton County south of Stephenville. The 2nd Armored Division was a combat division, which had to be prepared to go into the field at 85% strength on two hours notice. As a result, there was little opportunity for travel or entertainment. In April of 1952, Gene and James were able to come to Germany. A second son, Larry, was born there.

The family returned to the United States in April of 1954 and Bob was discharged from the

(Continued on page 2, Hutchins)

Botanice est Scientia Naturalis quae Vegetabilium cognitiorem tradit.



(Hutchins, continued from page 1)

Army in May. They returned to the Lubbock area where Bob accepted a position at Cooper's School in nearby Woodrow. A third son, Steve, arrived soon after. Bob also entered graduate school at Texas Tech to pursue a Masters in Agricultural Education, which he received in 1957. At this point the family returned to Westbrook, where another son, Daniel, was born in 1958, and a daughter, Debra in 1960. Bob became a science teacher and served for two years as principal. In 1962, he began an involvement with National Science Foundation summer programs at Texas Tech, which allowed him to study various aspects of science.

In 1964, the family moved to Post, Texas (founded by C. W. Post of cereal fame). Bob taught for 2 years, managed to obtain administrative certification, and served as principal for 2 years. Meanwhile, he continued his involvement with the NSF program and began the pursuit of a Master's degree in science. A class in plant taxonomy under Chester Rowell particularly stimulated him and started him on his lifelong journey in plant collecting. He decided to do his thesis on the Flora of Garza County. Post, the Hutchins home base, was the county seat. He made some fascinating discoveries in the course of his research, a colony of wild orchids, peculiar in caprock country, an Egyptian lotus in a stock tank, and #1172, a collection of *Pilostyles thurberi* on *Dalea*, a holy grail for collectors in the southwest.

In the spring of 1968, Bob received an M.S. from Texas Tech. His field studies of Garza County had given him great pleasure and fulfillment. The humdrum routine of the school in Post loomed ahead. During the past several years Bob's interest in science and plants had grown immensely. He had become involved with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, going to meetings and even presenting papers. Through his friendship with Chester Rowell and his membership in AAAS he had developed a relationship with William C. Martin, Associate Professor of Biology of at the University of New Mexico. In August of 1968 the Hutchins family decided to move to Albuquerque to give Bob a chance to continue the study of plants.

Bob landed a job as a science teacher at Monroe Jr. High and Gene worked as a substitute teacher for the Albuquerque Public Schools. Bob began taking classes at UNM. After a year at Monroe he became as assistant principal at Sandia High School. Gene worked towards librarian certification and became an elementary school librarian for the rest of her career. Bob also started working seriously on a project he had dreamed about since 1962. In that year he had taken a field trip to the Sacramento Mountains of Otero County in New Mexico as part of the NSF summer program at Texas Tech. He envisioned the possibility of preparing a flora of the area. He worked on the project for years, eventually self-publishing A Flora of the White Mountains of Southern Lincoln and Northern Otero Counties in 1974. Meanwhile, his studies at the University slowed. His passion was plants. The curriculum required courses like zoology and genetics, which did not interest him. He abandoned course work and devoted himself to the joy of hiking the state gathering plant specimens.

Bob remained at Sandia High until 1974, when he moved to Eldorado High. Then, in 1975, he accepted a position at the

newly established Career Enrichment Center of the Albuquerque Public Schools, where he remained until 1981. Next came an assignment at Rio Grande High for four years. He then transferred to Highland High, where he remained until his retirement in 1989. While at Eldorado, he decided to return, one more time, to coursework at the University, this time pursuing a Ph.D. in Education, which he achieved in 1979.

During the years in which he explored the Sacramentos for plants, Bob spent much time with Bill Martin. They developed a close friendship. Despite Bob's lack of interest in the complexities of phylogenetics, biochemistry and plant anatomy and physiology, he and Bill shared a common interest in taxonomy and the study of plant distributions. They had also built a comfortable working relationship. This would lead to what may have been the most significant collaboration in each of their lives.

In 1958, when Bill Martin was hired at UNM, the outstanding figure in the Biology Department was Edward Castetter, who became head of the department when he has hired in 1928. Castetter had done much work in ethnobotany, cacti, and general floristics during his career. In 1958, Castetter was vice-president of the University, Dean of the Graduate School, as well as head of the Biology Department, and, in his mid-sixties, getting ready to retire. Castetter, in the twilight of a distinguished career, had two remaining dreams, a treatment of cacti in New Mexico, and the presentation of a new flora of New Mexico. He told Bill Martin that he was more concerned with cacti, and that Bill should consider adopting the flora project. Bill believed in the concept and started fieldwork in the early 60's to achieve the goal. Martin and Castetter worked together to assemble A Checklist of Gymnosperms and Angiosperms of New Mexico in 1970. The appearance of Bob Hutchins in the late 60's provided the perfect opportunity to complete the project.

For the decade of the seventies Bob and Bill labored on the flora. Bob contributed his *Flora of the White Mountains* and did extensive field work throughout the state. Bill's graduate students also provided much material. In the late seventies Bill began typing the manuscript. Bob prepared all of the range maps. Bill was approached by the German company J. Cramer about the possibility of publishing the flora. Section by section, the huge manuscript was sent to Germany. Virtually no editing was done by the publisher. The two-volume *A Flora of New Mexico* appeared in 1980-81.

After the Flora was published, neither Bill nor Bob was fully pleased. Bob summarized: "After we got through with the flora, we knew we had left out a lot of things. We slipped up on some things. We did not intend to put Krameriaceae in the Leguminosae family, but we did." They thought about producing a revised checklist, but after some 30 years of combined effort, they soon lost momentum.

During the eighties, Bob continued his efforts in exploring the state and gathering specimens of its plants, concentrating on legumes. By the early nineties, he developed back problems and had to curtail his fieldwork. In his career he collected 13,308 specimens. Of these 7479 were placed at UNM. Among these thousands are two New Mexico collections of the elusive

(Continued on page 3, Hutchins)



(Hutchins, continued from page 2)

Pilostyles thurberi, the only two specimens of this species listed by the New Mexico Biodiversity Collections Consortium. The remainder of his collections were placed in herbaria at the University of North Carolina and Texas Tech University. Even in retirement he managed to contribute. One day he received a phone call. Bob recalls:

John Kartesz called me one day and asked me if I knew anyone who had a collection of plant pictures, because in his work he wanted to add pictures. I said, well, John, I happen to have a few thousand. I sent him all my slides and let him sort through and pick what he wanted to use.

The relationship lasted for years.

Bob Hutchins has done much to further the understanding of the plants of New Mexico and their distributions. He was not an academician. He was not one to publish articles in scientific journals. He was a careful observer and found his greatest rewards in the field, traveling tirelessly through the deserts and mountains of the state seeking the new and the different. He has often been misinterpreted. He was certainly tenacious in his domain. He never saw himself as an authority or a genius. He simply wanted to be a part of the botanical community and add as much as he could to the knowledge of the natural world.

Bob Hutchins passed away on December 26, 2008. He was first and foremost dedicated to his family. His eldest son Jim tried to express his feelings:

"I cannot tell you how important it is to me and my family that folks, whether in the botany community or not, understand how much my Dad affected not only our lives, but contributed to the scientific community. I grew up as a son of this man. You get questions about who you respect. It's simple; I want to be like my Dad. He was the anchor in our family for eighty years. I miss him and there are no replacements."

What's In a Name?

Ever wonder about the rules governing eponymous plant names (names honoring people)? Particularly noticeable is the fact that the names honoring men have different endings than those honoring women (long live the difference!).

Eponymous names are created according to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature, of which the most recent edition is from 2006, referred to as the Vienna Code (available online at http://www.ibot.sav.sk/icbn/main.htm). Here we learn that the specific epithet may be substantival (like a noun), or adjectival (like an adjective).

Substantival epithets are formed by adding to the personal name the Latin genitive inflection appropriate to the sex and number of the people being honored. For example, we have grayi for Asa Gray (gray + the genitive singular masculine ending, -i), hookerorum for the two Hookers, Joseph Dalton and William Jackson (hooker + the genitive plural masculine ending, -orum), and cloverae for Elzada Urseba Clover (clover + the genitive singular feminine ending, -ae). This procedure applies for personal names ending in a vowel or in -er.

If the personal name ends in a consonant (excepting -er), substantival epithets are created by adding first to the personal name -i- (a stem augmentation—who knows the reason for this?), then the Latin genitive inflection appropriate to the sex and number of the people being honored. For example, we have wrightii for Charles Wright (wright + i (stem augmentation) +

the genitive singular masculine ending, -i), and *eastwoodiae* for Alice Eastwood (eastwood + i (stem augmentation) + the genitive singular feminine ending, -ae).

Occasionally we're fooled when we see an -ae ending, thinking the name must refer to a woman. For example, in *Cylindropuntia kleiniae*, we see all the trappings of a feminine eponymous name—the -i- as the stem augmentation, followed by -ae, the genitive singular feminine ending. We think to ourselves, this must be named after a woman named Klein. It turns out that the epithet *kleiniae* in this case refers to the genus *Kleinia*, which was named after Jacob Theodore Klein.

Adjectival epithets are formed in much the same way, except we add the adjectival endings (-anus, -ana, -anum) rather than the genitive endings, and these endings must agree in gender with the generic name (which is always in the nominative singular). Thus, we have *Astragalus emoryanus* for William Hemsley Emory (emory + the masculine adjectival ending, -anus), and *Corydalis caseana* for Eliphalet Lewis Case (case + the feminine adjectival ending, -ana). This procedure applies for personal names ending in a vowel.

If the personal name ends in a consonant (including -er), adjectival epithets are created by adding -i- (a stem augmentation), plus the adjectival ending that agrees with the gender of the generic name. Thus, for Augustus Fendler we have *Cyperus fendlerianus* (fendler + i + masculine adjectival ending, -anus), *Aristida fendleriana* (fendler + i + feminine adjectival ending, -ana), and *Eriogonum fendlerianum* (fendler + i + neuter adjectival ending, -anum).



The Genus Nama in New Mexico

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The genus *Nama* is traditionally placed in the Hydrophyllaceae, which is a plant family that has recently come under scrutiny for inclusion within the Boraginaceae (APG 2003). *Nama* is represented in New Mexico by only six species, but includes one of our most showy desert annuals (*Nama hispidum*) and a very strange-looking gypsum plant (*Nama carnosum*). *Nama* is Greek for fountain, spring or stream. The significance of that meaning to this group of plants is not apparent. The vernacular name 'fiddleleaf' has been applied to many *Nama* species, but is not morphologically descriptive or accurate for any of the New Mexican species and is nonsensical.

Nama in New Mexico

- 1 Plants with evident woody bases
 - 2 Stems one or a few from the base, branching above the middle; leaves linear, strongly revolute, 1-3 cm long; flowers crowded in terminal cymes at the branch ends; corolla white; seeds brown... *N. carnosum*
 - 2 Stems numerous, freely branching from the woody crown; leaves narrowly oblanceolate, weakly to moderately revolute, 5-12 mm long; flowers solitary along stems or in small terminal clusters, corolla pale bluish pink; seeds yellow... *N. xylopodum*
- 1 Plants without evident woody bases
 - 3 Stem initially single and simple then repeatedly dichotomously branched, erect or upright ascending... N. dichotomum
 - 3 Stems not dichotomously branched, freely branching from the base and above, clumped-ascending or decumbent
 - 4 Stem pubescence with numerous short, retrorse hairs and fewer longer, spreading hairs; corollas inconspicuous among the leaves... *N. retrorsum*
 - 4 Stem pubescence variously hispid, strigose or strigulose, but none retrorse; corollas showy
 - 5 Leaves 1.5-6 mm wide, margins revolute often strongly so, variously linear-oblanceolate, oblong or spatulate with blunt tips; calyx pubescence with at least some spreading hairs... *N. hispidum*
 - 5 Leaves <2 mm wide, margins not revolute or weakly revolute, linear-lanceolate with acute tips; calyx pubescence entirely strigose... *N. stevensii*

The following distribution maps of *Nama* in New Mexico are of specimens at UNM, NMC, NMCR, ASU and from collections cited by Bacon (1984) and Hitchcock (1933, 1933b). Collection details for most locations may be accessed at the New Mexico Biodiversity Collections Consortium website at http://nmbiodiversity.org/. Chromosome numbers are from Bacon (1984).

Nama carnosum (Wooton) C.L. Hitchcock (Latin *carnosum* = notably fleshy, possibly for its thickened leaves and flowers). Sand fiddleleaf.

Confined to gypsum substrates in desert scrub ranging from the Tularosa Basin and Yeso Formation outcrops in the south-central part of the state, then into the gypsum outcrops of the Pecos River Basin in the southeast and as far north as Guadalupe County (Figure 1). Flowers June to September depending on precipitation frequency. *n*=7. [*N. stenophyllum* A. Gray ex Hemsley var. *egenum* Macbride].

This is our most distinctive *Nama* species. The combination of perennial habit; relatively long, linear leaves; upright stems that are simple below and branched into dense terminal cymes above the middle; and white flowers distinguish it from other species. A more appropriate common name would be 'gypsum fiddleleaf'.

Nama dichotomum (Ruiz & Pavon) Choisy var. dichotomum (Latin dicotomia = dividing in two, for the repeated stem division). Wishbone fiddleleaf.

Occurs on a variety of sandy substrates and usually associated with mountain ranges in the western two-thirds of the state (Figure 1). Often a plant of piñon-juniper-oak woodlands and savannas, but may also occur at higher elevations on the thin soils of rock outcrops in subalpine forest, such as Sandia Crest in Bernalillo County and Hermit Peak in San Miguel County. Flowers late July through September. *n*=14. [*N. angustifolium* (A. Gray) A. Nelson; *N. tenue* (Wooton & Standley) Tidestrom]

This late summer annual is readily distinguished by its erect stems that repeatedly and dichotomously divide into wiry branches. Small, depauperate individuals may have only a short, simple stem. Normal branched individuals usually have flowers in even the lowest branch axils making the entire above-ground plant a cymose dichasium that branches indeterminately until the plant dies. Corollas are relatively small, 4-6 mm long, and can be pale pink-violet, pink or white.

Nama hispidum A. Gray var. **hispidum** (Latin hispidus = bristly, for the stiff hairs on the calyx). Sandbells, bristly nama.

Sandy and coarse gravelly soils in arid shrub land and grassland, occasionally at elevations as high as piñon-juniper woodland. Distributed nearly state-wide at lower elevations. Frequently collected in the middle and lower Rio Grande Basin, but under-collected in some areas such as northeastern New Mexico (Figure 2). Schiebout (2006) reports this species for Colfax, Quay and San Miguel counties. Flowers in spring or summer, and may bloom all summer during favorable years. n=7. [Marilaunidium foliosum Wooton & Standley; N. hispidum var. mentzelii Brand; N. hispidum var. spathulatum (Torrey) C.L. Hitchcock]

Usually an annual, but may overwinter as a rosette of leaves, then flower in the spring. This is the most common and variable *Nama* species in our flora. A few of the named varieties seem worthy of taxonomic recognition, however, their character states can become recombined in other populations making the

(Continued on page 5, Nama)



(Nama, continued from page 4)

New Mexican circumscriptions of infraspecific taxa impractical. Most New Mexico populations have ascending stems; narrow, strongly revolute leaves; and medium pink-violet (purple) corolla limbs that are usually 5-8 mm wide (sometimes to 10 mm wide). A variation in Chaves, Eddy and Lincoln counties is noteworthy for its relatively broad elliptic or spatulate stem leaves that are only weakly revolute on the margins. The type specimen of *Marilaunidium foliosum* came from this form.

Another unusual variant are the plants with decumbent stems in Hidalgo County, which can be seen on the sandy margins of the Hachita Playa. These have relatively large 10 mm wide corolla limbs that initially emerge as dark purple, quickly fade to medium purple, and finally to a pale pink that is almost white. The tri-colored mounds produced by all three flower colors occurring on each plant present an unusual floral display for this species. This population needs further study and comparison with *N. hispidum* variants in Sonora.

Nama retrorsum J.T. Howell (Latin *retrorsus* = bent backward or downward, for the small retrorse hairs on the stem). Betatakin fiddleleaf.

Northwestern quadrant of the state (Figure 3) on deep sands of arroyos or stable dunes in desert scrub or piñon-juniper woodland. This plant occurs in widely scattered populations and is infrequently collected in New Mexico. Flowers from June to October during years of favorable precipitation. n=7.

Summer annual that flowers until autumn when rainfall is favorable. The earliest flowers are small and inconspicuous among the leaves. Autumn flowers on the same plants are somewhat larger and more conspicuous. Corolla color is medium to dark purple.

Nama stevensii C.L. Hitchcock var. stevensii (for George Walter Stevens [1868-1936], biology teacher and Director of the 1913 Oklahoma Botanical Survey). Stevens' fiddleleaf. Southeastern quadrant of the State (Figure 3) on sandy gypsum substrates in the desert scrub and arid grasslands of the Pecos River basin. This plant occurs in widely scattered populations and is infrequently collected in New Mexico. Flowers spring and summer. n=7.

Annual or short-lived perennial plants that do not develop a woody crown or caudex. Very similar to *N. hispidum*, but distinguished by its strigose calyx and narrow, acute leaves that are weakly revolute. Corolla is medium purple and showy, but not as broad as some of the large-flowered variants of *N. hispidum*.

Nama xylopodum (Wooton & Standley) C.L. Hitchcock (Greek xylon = woody and pous = foot, for the woody crown of this perennial plant). Yellow-seed fiddleleaf.

Narrowly endemic to the Guadalupe Mountains of Eddy and Otero counties, New Mexico and adjacent Texas, and Sierra Diablo in Culberson County, Texas (Figure 3). Crevices in limestone cliffs and outcrops from desert scrub up to ponderosa pine forest. Flowers spring to autumn. n=7. [Marilanunidium xylopodum Wooton & Standley]

This is the only New Mexico *Nama* that is a long-lived perennial and confined to limestone cliffs. Its range of distribu-

tion is small, but it is quite abundant in suitable habitats.

Nama torynophyllum Greenman has been collected on the creosote bajada west of the Franklin Mountains in El Paso County, Texas about 8 miles south of the New Mexico border (*R.D. Worthington s.n.*, 21 Sep 2006, ASU). Botanists in adjacent Doña Ana County, New Mexico should look for this plant in similar habitat. It is a mat-forming annual distinguished by its spoon-shaped leaves that are petiolate, or nearly so, then rounded distally.

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Figure 1. New Mexico distribution of *Nama carnosum* (stars) and *Nama dichotomum* (triangles).

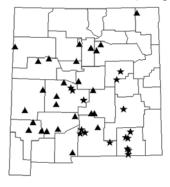
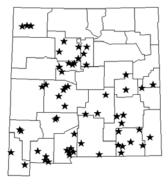


Figure 2. New Mexico distribution of *Nama hispidum*.

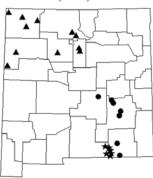


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(Nama, continued from page 5)

Figure 3. New Mexico distribution of *Nama retrorsum* (triangles), *Nama stevensii* (circles), and *Nama xylopodum* (stars).



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Plant Distribution Reports

New records and significant distribution reports for New Mexico plants should be documented by complete collection information and disposition of a specimen (herbarium). Exotic taxa are indicated by an asterisk (*), endemic taxa by a cross (+).

- Jayne Mygatt [Museum of Southwestern Biology, MSC03 2020, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM, USA 87131-0001]
- Carex tahoensis Smiley (Cyperaceae, Tahoe sedge): Taos County: Carson National Forest / Valle Vidal, Ash Mountain quadrangle, SW quarter, W 35 45'30" N 105 14'45", Valle Vidal Basin, 1 Oct 1983, Janet Williams 15 (UNM), Det. B.E. Nelson, Univ. Wyoming (RM).
- Ken Heil [San Juan College, 4601 College Blvd., Farmington, NM 87402]
- *Crypsis alopecuroides (Piller & Mitterpacher) Schrader (Poaceae, pricklegrass): McKinley County: Bluewater Lake State Park, northeast bank of the lake, N35° 18.305' W108° 07.8974', one of the dominant grasses along lake margin, with Xanthium strumarium, Gnaphalium, & Eragrostis, 7395 ft, 9 Sep 2008, Ken Heil 29896 & Wayne Mietty (SJNM).
- Platanthera obtusata (Banks ex Pursh) Lindley (Orchidaceae, one-leaf bog-orchid): Mora County: Pecos Wilderness, about 300 feet above Rito Maestas Creek, N35° 57.068' W105° 34.840', damp forest with Luzula, Dodecatheon, Listera cordata, Picea engelmannii, growing along rotting log, 10990 ft, 9 July 2008 Ken Heil 29554 & Steve O'Kane & Wayne Mietty (SJNM).
- **Draba smithii** Gilg ex O.E. Schulz (Brassicaceae, Smith's whitlow-grass): Taos County, ca. 5 mi northeast of Pilar on State Hwy 68, at hairpin curve, two track leading up Hondo Canyon, ca 0.1 mi from highway along banks of intermittent stream, N36° 18.025' W105° 43.964', with Vitis

- arizonica, Gambel oak, 6890 ft, 24 May 2008, <u>Ken Heil 29,312A</u> and Steve O'Kane (SJNM). [Previously known only from Colorado]
- Jack Carter [P. O. Box 1244, Silver City, NM 88062]
 Ageratina lemmonii (B. L. Robinson) R. M. King & H. Robinson (Asteraceae, Lemmon's snakeroot): Catron County: Locally common perennial to 50 cm in height; flowers white; adjacent to Indian Creek road, 0.4 miles from junction with FS 153; montane coniferous forest, Gila National Forest. Section: 31, TW: 10S, RG: 17W, Elevation 8,845 ft., 9 August 1994, Sheila L. Christy and Charles Huff s.n. (NMC).
- Schiebout et al. (see Botanical Literature of Interest)
- **Rorippa teres** (Michaux) Stuckey (Brassicaceae, southern marsh yellow-cress): Mora County.
- **Chenopodium berlandieri** Moquin-Tandon var. **berlandieri** (Chenopodiaceae, pitted goosefoot): Union County.
- Artemisia ludoviciana Nuttall var. incompta (Nuttall) Cronquist (Asteraceae, wormwood): Colfax, Harding, Mora, San Miguel, Union counties.
- **Tetraneuris torreyana** (Nuttall) Greene (Asteraceae, rubberweed): Harding & San Miguel counties. [This is a second report for the state, the first being by Wooton & Standley as *T. depressa*]
- *Rosa x harisonii Rivers (Rosaceae, Harison's rose): Colfax County.



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