

THURBER'S INDIAN PAINTBRUSH AND RANCHO EL MABABI, SONORA

THOMAS R. VAN DEVENDER
ANA LILIA REINA-GUERRERO

Greater Good Charities
6262 N. Swan Road
Suite 165
Tucson, Arizona 85718

ABSTRACT

A collection of *Castilleja tomentosa* (Thurber's indian paintbrush) from near Esqueda, Sonora, in 2017 is the first for the state and Mexico since George Thurber collected the holotype at Rancho El Mababi in 1851.

After the Madrean Discovery Expedition to Sierra Juriquipa, Sonora (Makings et al. 2018), our group went to a nearby Chihuahuan desertscrub area east of Esqueda. A species of *Castilleja* collected there was identified as *Castilleja tomentosa* A. Gray by Mark Egger, who had resurrected this species from the synonymy of *C. integra* (Egger 2012).

Voucher. Mexico. Sonora. Mpio. Fronteras, 7.9 km [by air] ESE of Esqueda, 30.6975° N, 109.5075° W, limestone area, 1275 m, 17 Aug 2017, *Reina-G. & Van Devender 2017-292* (WTU).

The holotype of *Castilleja tomentosa* was collected on Rancho El Mababi (45 kilometers northwest of our Esqueda locality) in 1851 by George Thurber (Fig. 3), botanist on the Mexican Boundary Survey, which aimed to define the international border after the Mexican-American War ended in 1848. Mababi was located south of the Arizona border in the eastern foothills of the massive Sierra de Los Ajos, one of the largest Sonoran Sky Island mountain ranges. Other interesting collections made by Thurber at Mababi include the holotypes of *Carex thurberi*, *Diphysa thurberi*, and *Ranunculus hydrocharoides*.

Outside of Sonora, *Castilleja tomentosa* is known only from Hidalgo Co., New Mexico (Egger 2012). Our 2017 collection from Esqueda was the first from Sonora in 166 years!



Figure 1. *Castilleja tomentosa* collection site east-southeast of Esqueda, Sonora. Photo by A. L. Reina-G.



Figure 2. *Castilleja tomentosa* from east-southeast of Esqueda, Sonora. Photos by A.L. Reina-G., 17 August 2017.



Figure 3. George Thurber. Photo from Prabook (2022).

LITERATURE CITED

- Egger, J.M. 2012. The status of *Castilleja tomentosa* A. Gray (Orobanchaceae) and first records for this species from the United States. *Phytoneuron* 2012-72: 1–7.
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