

# A NEW SPECIES OF HELIOPSIS FROM MEXICO<sup>1</sup>

T. RICHARD FISHER

*Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University, Columbus 10*

Since the monograph of the genus *Heliopsis* (Compositae) was published (Fisher, 1957), a new species was collected in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, by Dr. Robert Merrill King. Although it is known from only a single location it should be recognized as a specific taxon because of its distinctive morphology.

## ***Heliopsis pulchra* Fisher sp. nov.**

Herba Perennis 15.0 to 40.0 cm alta; folia ovato-deltaoidea, scabra, 1.5 to 2.0 cm lata, 3.0 to 5.0 cm longa, petioli 1.5 to 2.0 cm longi; capitula 1.0 to 1.5 cm lata, 0.5 cm alta; involucria 1-seriata; radii 10 to 12, aurei; achenia quadrangularia, 2.5 to 3.0 mm longa, irregulariter tuberculata.

Erect or ascending perennial herb, 15 to 40 cm tall, branched nearly to base; *stems* somewhat woody, 1.0 to 3.0 mm thick, sparingly pubescent below to strigose pubescent in lines above; leaves ovate to deltoid, 3.0 to 5.0 cm long, 1.5 to 2.0 cm wide below becoming progressively smaller above, strigose above and below becoming scabrous with age, densely strigose in axils of young leaves, petioles slender, 1.5 to 2.0 cm long, strigose in lines, margin of leaves finely toothed to nearly entire; *heads* (excluding rays) about 1.0 cm wide (in fruit); phyllaries in one series, appressed, strigose on both surfaces oblong-ovate, obtuse at apex; *rays* 0.8 to 1.0 cm long, 0.4 to 0.5 cm wide, often 2- or 3-lobed at apex, bright orange-yellow when young, turning light yellow with age; disk corollas yellowish, tube 3.0 to 4.0 mm long, glabrous to sparingly pubescent, lobes obtuse; pales lanceolate-oblong to spatulate, dull yellow at apex, 6.0 to 7.0 mm long, 1.0 to 1.5 mm wide; ray achenes triangular in cross section, outer surface curved, 2.5 to 3.0 mm long, surface irregularly tuberculate (fig. 1) very dark brown to black; disk achenes quadrangular in cross section, sharply so at apex, irregularly tuberculate, epappose or pappus represented by slight ridge (fig. 1).

Type Collection: Chiapas, Mexico: oak forests along route 190, about 5 miles northwest of Comitán where it grows abundantly in sandy soil and open sun, 25 June 1960, *Robert M. King 3049* (TEX; isotype deposited in The Ohio State University Herbarium).

The only other species of *Heliopsis* reported to date in the State of Chiapas, Mexico is *H. bupthalmoides* (Jacq.) Dunal which appears to be the nearest relative of this newly described taxon. The distinguishing differences between the two taxa are as follows:

### *H. bupthalmoides*

1. Achenes tan to light brown, rugose.
2. Leaves ovate to ovate-lanceolate, approaching deltoid, pilose.
3. Plants 30.0 to 75.0 cm tall.
4. Rays yellow.
5. Phyllaries 2-seriate.

### *H. pulchra*

1. Achenes black, tuberculate.
2. Leaves deltoid to slightly ovate, becoming scabrous.
3. Plants 15.0 to 40.0 cm tall.
4. Rays orange-yellow.
5. Phyllaries 1-seriate.

## LITERATURE CITED

Fisher, T. R. 1957. Taxonomy of the genus *Heliopsis* Compositae. Ohio J. Sci. 57: 171-191.

<sup>1</sup>Publication 618—Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, The Ohio State University.

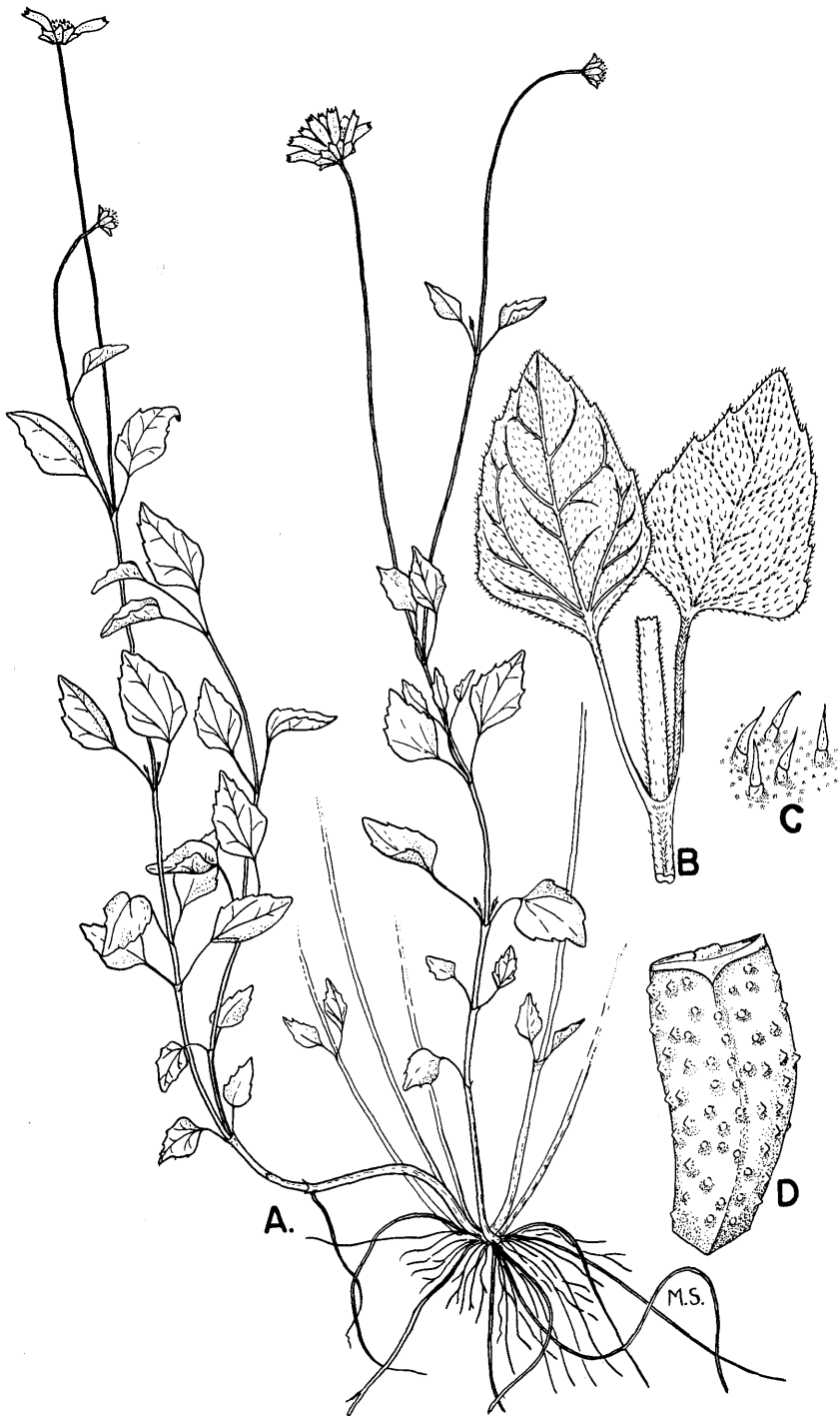


FIGURE 1. Detail drawings of portions of *H. pulchra* Fisher. A) Habit sketch of plant ( $\frac{1}{4}$  natural size). B) Portion of stem bearing mature leaves, approximately natural size. C) Pubescence on upper leaf surface  $\times 30$ . D) Mature disk achene  $\times 50$ .