A NEW _ASCLEPIAS_ FROM ZACATECAS, MEXICO

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What seems to be a very distinctive but as yet undescribed species of _Asclepias_ was discovered in July 1975 by Mr. Salvador Correa of Western Michigan University, near the dry forested summits of the great ridge between the Río Juchipila and the Río Bolaños, in southern Zacatecas. Unfortunately Mr. Correa’s specimen was without fruit, but the flowers are so remarkable there seems to be no doubt the plant is unique.

_Asclepias zacatecana_ McVaugh, sp. nov.

_Herba_ puberula debilis 30 cm alta ut videtur perennis, folii linearibus oppositis 6—12 cm longis, 3—5 mm latis, attenuatis, umbellis axillaribus paucifloris quam folii triplo brevioribus; _flores_ 3—7, pedicellis tenuibus 1—2 cm longis instructi, atropurpurei sed _corollis_ apicem versus pallidis subhyalinis; _calycis_ laciniae ellipticae 2—2.5 mm longae; _corolla_ 7—8 mm longa, sub anthesi rotato-reflexa, lobis ovatis acutis; _gynostegium_ stipitatum, _columna_ late cylindrica 1—1.3 mm longa, 1.5 mm lata, _cucullis_ erectis 5—6 mm longis, _delicatulis_, _lateraliter_ compressis _sessilibus_ base _saccatis_, _eis_ _marginibus_ _valde_ _in_ _dentibus_ _erectis_ _prolongatis_, _cornu_ _valde_ _adnato_ _dentato_ _cucullo_ _longiore_; _androecium_ _conicum_, _ca._ 1.5 mm _longum_ latumque; _folliculi_ mihi ignotii.

_Leaves_ essentially glabrous, attenuate at both ends, 1-nerved; _umbels_ in the upper axils, the peduncles puberulent, 2—3 cm long; _pedicels_ puberulent adaxially; _calyx_, _corolla_, and the bases of the _hoods_ apparently dark purple, the distal parts of the _hoods_ including the horns nearly white or colorless, very thin and delicate; _hoods_ apparently fleshy and firm at base, rounded on the backs, open adaxially, somewhat contracted on the sides above the _basal_ _attachment_, truncate at apex but obscurely _toothed_ abaxially between the two prolonged _marginal_ teeth; _horn_ usually with two short abaxially _directed_ teeth above middle; _anther-head_ with conspicuous _hyaline_ _apical_ appendages, and with the _wings_ _directed_ toward base and bearing each an _apical_ _notch_.

**ZACATECAS:** Near summits between Jalpa and Tlaltenango, steep mountainsides in deep soil, oak forest with _Pinus lumholtzii_, _Arbutus_ _spp._, _Prunus_ _serotina_, _elev._ _ca._ 2400—2500 m, 22 July 1975, _Correa_ 25 (MICH, _type_). Known only from this collection.

In _Nueva_ _Galicia_ there are several species of _Asclepias_ that are herbs with opposite and essentially linear leaves. None of these shares with _A. zacatecana_ the _characters_ of dark, _rotate-reflexed_ _corolla_, _short_ but _definite_ column, and _long_ and _characteristically_ _toothed_ _hoods_. Superficially somewhat similar is _A._ _gentryi_ _Standl._, in which the _flowers_ are red and yellow, the _hoods_ only 3—4 mm long and obtuse, and the _translator-arms_ _broadly_ _triangular_, _larger_ than the _gland_.

It is noteworthy that in at least one _flower_ of the type of _A. zacatecana_, the _number_ of _pollinium_ _sacs_ was usually _3_ in each _unit_. The central _one_ _was_ _located_ in the _flower_ between the _wings_ of _adjacent_ _anthers_; it seemed _normal_ but _slightly_ _smaller_ than the _two_ _lateral_ _ones_.

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FIG. 1. *Asclepias zacatecana*, drawn from the type by Karin Douthit. a, flowering branch × 0.5; b, flower × 2.5; c, germinating pollinia × 15; d, adaxial, abaxial, and lateral views of hood × 5; e, anther-head × 10.