

**OXYLOBUS SUBGLABER KING & H. ROB. (ASTERACEAE: EUPATORIEAE) —
ACCEPTANCE OF ITS SPECIFIC STATUS**

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ABSTRACT

Oxylobus subglaber, treated as a synonym of *O. arbutifolius* by Turner and Kerr (1985) in their revision of the genus, is resurrected to specific rank, this a result of additional specimens collected from the general region of the type locality. *Oxylobus* was previously treated as having but 4 species; the present reestablishment and the previous description of the novelty *O. preecei* by Turner (1988) now brings the total to 6 species. A key to the taxa is provided, along with a map showing the distribution of the revised set of accepted species.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Eupatorieae, *Oxylobus*, Mexico

Oxylobus (Moc. ex DC.) A. Gray is a genus positioned in the subtribe Oxylobinae of the Eupatorieae, along with eight other genera, most notably *Ageratina* Spach (Hind & Robinson 2009). The present reassessment of the group was occasioned by the resurrection of *O. subglaber* and the need to account for the recently described *O. preecei*. So constructed, the genus now contains six well marked species, as follows.

1. Flowering stems with mostly 2–5 pairs of basal leaves; perennial herbs
..... **Oxylobus adscendens** (Sch. Bip. ex Hemsl.) B.L. Rob. & Greenm.
1. Flowering stems with mostly 10 or more pairs of leaves; suffrutescent herbs or subshrubs.
 2. Involucres 3–4 mm high; peduncles not markedly glandular pubescent.
 3. Involucral bracts broadly rounded apically; pappus of achenes 0.2 mm long or less
..... **Oxylobus subglaber** King & H. Rob.
 3. Involucral bracts acute apically; pappus of achenes 0.3–0.5 mm long
..... **Oxylobus oaxacanus** Blake
 2. Involucres 4.3–7.0 mm high; peduncles markedly glandular pubescent.
 4. Leaf blades mostly 2.2–6.0 cm long, 1–3 cm wide, densely pubescent
..... **Oxylobus glandulifer** (Sch. Bip. ex Hemsl.) A. Gray ex Klatt
 4. Leaf blades mostly 1–2 cm long, 0.5–1.2 cm wide, sparsely pubescent
to glabrous or nearly so.
 5. Leaves to some extent glandular pubescent; heads not borne on elongate naked scapes
..... **Oxylobus arbutifolius** (Kunth) A. Gray
 5. Leaves glabrous; heads borne on elongate naked scapes **Oxylobus preecei** B.L. Turner

Turner and Kerr (1985) provided a detailed account of four of the above species; the two species added to the genus since are enlarged upon below. Distribution of the two additional taxa are shown in Fig. 3.

OXYLOBUS PREECEI B.L. Turner, *Phytologia* 65: 375. 1988. Fig. 1. **TYPE: MEXICO. Pueblo.** Mpio. Coxcatlan, W of Tepeloya, ca 22 km from Coxcatlan, ca 2560 m, 15 Apr 1985, *P. Tenorio* L. 8804 (holotype: TEX).

As can be noted in the sketch of the present novelty by Turner (1988), the habit of *Oxylobus preecei* is very similar to *O. subglaber*. It differs from the latter in numerous characters, including shape and size of the involucre bracts and characters of the pappus. Turner speculated that *O. preecei* might have been derived from “ancestral hybridization” between *O. arbutifolius* and *O. oaxacanus*, since it combines features of both taxa.

OXYLOBUS SUBGLABER King & H. Rob. [as *Oxylobus 'subglabrus'*], *Phytologia* 27: 385. 1973. **TYPE: MEXICO. Oaxaca.** Distrito Ixtlan, Cerro de Humo Chico, 2 Sep 1966, *T. Macdougall* 8 (holotype: US!).

Additional collections examined. MEXICO. Oaxaca. Distrito Ixtlan, Near Cerro Pelon, 59 km SW of Valle National ... on open cliff, 28 Sep 1994, *Yahara & Soejima* 118 (TEX); 32.9 km N from Ixtlan along Mexico Hwy 175 to Valle Nacional, 2780 m, “Road-cut in edge of dense pine forest,” 17° 30.3' N, 96° 30.4' W, 10 Nov 1997, *Yahara et al.* 1100 (TEX).

Specimen observations along with label data on the two Yahara collections, “On open cliff,” and along “Road-cut,” suggest that the species is a bluff-dwelling species having a low, stoloniferous habit.

Oxylobus subglaber, originally known by a single collection from north-central Oaxaca, Mexico, was placed by Turner and Kerr (1985) in synonymy with the widespread and highly variable *O. arbutifolius* (Kunth) A. Gray; they noted, however, that the plant concerned was an “unusual form” of *O. arbutifolius*. Indeed, the senior author (BLT) subsequently studied the type in more detail (cf. Fig. 2), noting that its specific status might be “good.” This has proved to be the case, to judge from the additional collections assembled by Yahara et al.

Both of the more recent collections are very similar to the type of *Oxylobus subglaber* in habit, foliage, and floral details. In my early assessment of the taxon, as noted above, I compared it with *O. arbutifolius*, but it is clearly closer to *O. oaxacanus* Blake and the recently described, local endemic *O. preecei* B.L. Turner from Pueblo. Both of the latter possess similar habits and capitulescences, but *O. preecei* is readily distinguished from *O. subglaber* by having distinctive, oblanceolate, leaves, longer, linear-lanceolate involucre bracts, and more pronounced pappus scales.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

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- Turner, B.L. 1988. A new species of *Oxylobus* (Asteraceae: Eupatorieae) from Pueblo, Mexico. *Phytologia* 65: 375.
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Figure 1. Holotype of *Oxylobus preecei* (TEX).

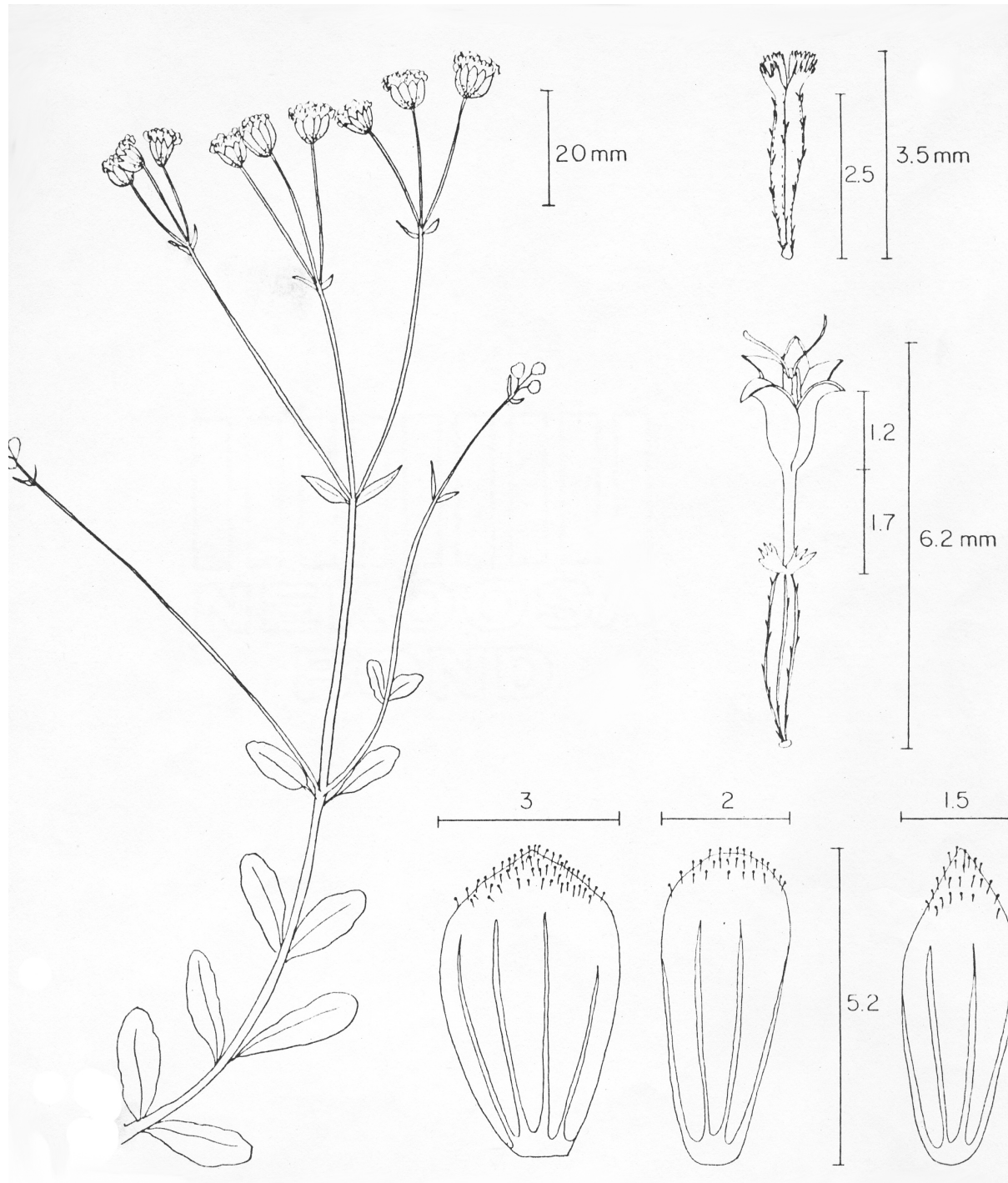


Figure 2. Sketches of *Oxylobus subglaber* (from holotype).

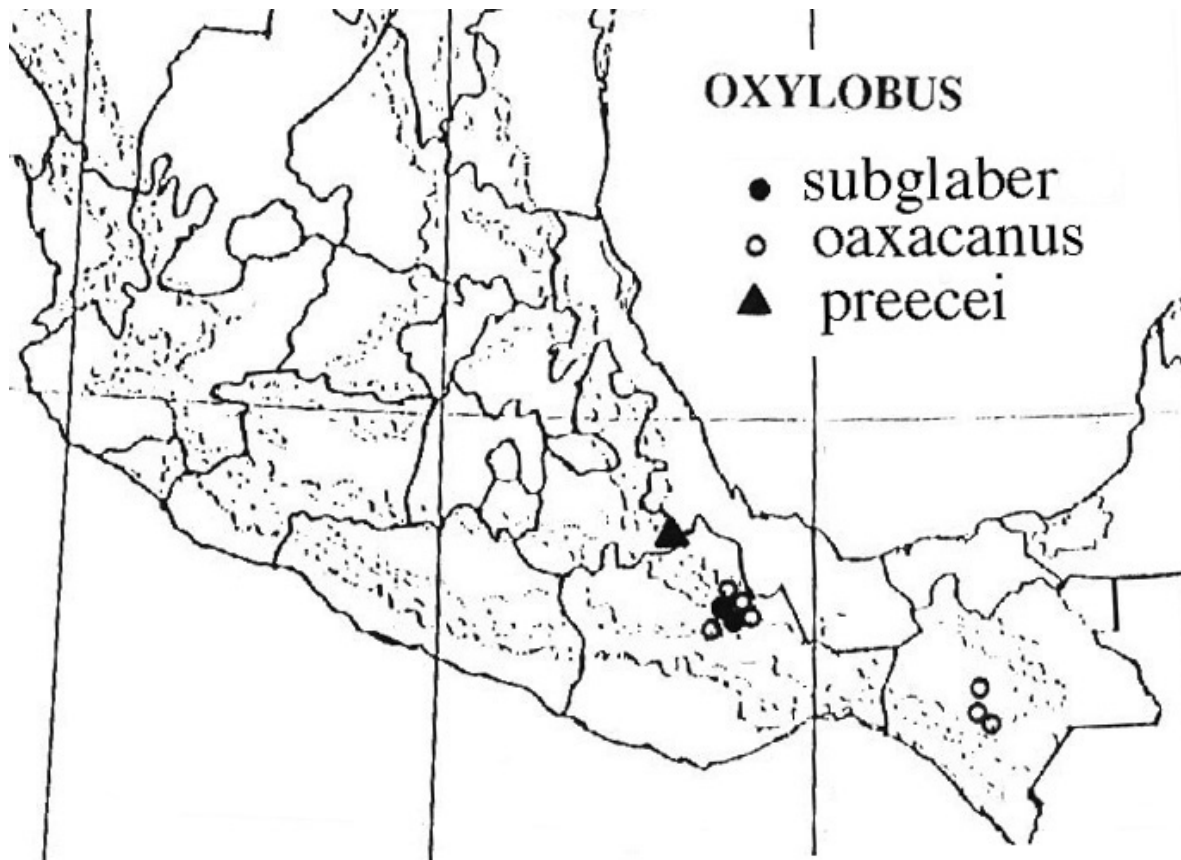


Figure 3. Distribution of *Oxylobus oaxacanus*, *O. preecei*, and *O. subglaber* — Puebla, Oaxaca, and Chiapas.