

***ERIGERON WISLIZENI* (ASTERACEAE)
AT THE TOP OF ITS RANGE IN ARIZONA**

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ABSTRACT

A collection from the west side of the Huachuca Mountains in Cochise County of southern Arizona documents the only known occurrence of *Erigeron wislizeni* in the USA. The species otherwise is Mexican, occurring in western and southern Chihuahua and adjacent Sonora and Sinaloa. Images of the Cochise County vouchers (duplicates) and distribution map for the species are provided.

A significant floristic collection by Baker has lain misidentified in Arizona herbaria for 20 years — Nesom identified the ASU specimen as *E. neomexicanus* (see Fig. 2), but instead it is a collection of *Erigeron wislizeni* (A. Gray) Greene, documenting the first and only known occurrence of the species in the USA (Fig. 1).

Voucher. **USA. Arizona.** Cochise Co.: 4.4 km S of Peterson Peak, Sunnyside Canyon, 500 m NNE of Sunnyside, N 31° 26', W 110° 24', *Juniperus deppeana* woodland, 1790 m (5875 ft), 27 Aug 1999, Baker 13464 with D. Lisenby (ARIZ, ASU).

Erigeron wislizeni is a member of sect. *Polyactis* (Nesom 1989, 2008), which is characterized by nodding heads (in bud), filiform, white rays that reflex at the tube-ligule junction, and by short achenes (1–1.3 mm) with 8–12 basally caducous pappus bristles or by achenes completely without bristles. The center of diversity of sect. *Polyactis* is in northwestern Mexico — *E. neomexicanus* and *E. oreophilus* of Arizona and New Mexico are the only two previously known in the USA. *Erigeron wislizeni* is distinct from both in its lack of pappus bristles. Like *E. neomexicanus*, and in contrast to *E. oreophilus*, *E. wislizeni* is eglandular.

Erigeron oreophilus consistently produces pinnatifid to bipinnatifid leaves; *E. neomexicanus* usually produces pinnatifid leaves but variants sometimes have nearly entire leaves. Leaves of *E. wislizeni* usually are entire or shallowly toothed, as in the Cochise County plants, but variants in Chihuahua (especially in the vicinity of the town of Tomochic) often have pinnatifid leaves. Purple-rayed variants have been recognized as *E. wislizeni* var. *purpurascens* (Greenm.) Nesom, but the scattered geography of these suggests they are better considered as populational variants.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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LITERATURE CITED

- Nesom, G.L. 1989. Taxonomy of *Erigeron* sect. *Polyactis* (Compositae: Astereae). Phytologia 66: 415–455.
Nesom, G.L. 2008. Classification of subtribe Conyzinae (Asteraceae: Astereae). Lundellia 11: 8–38.

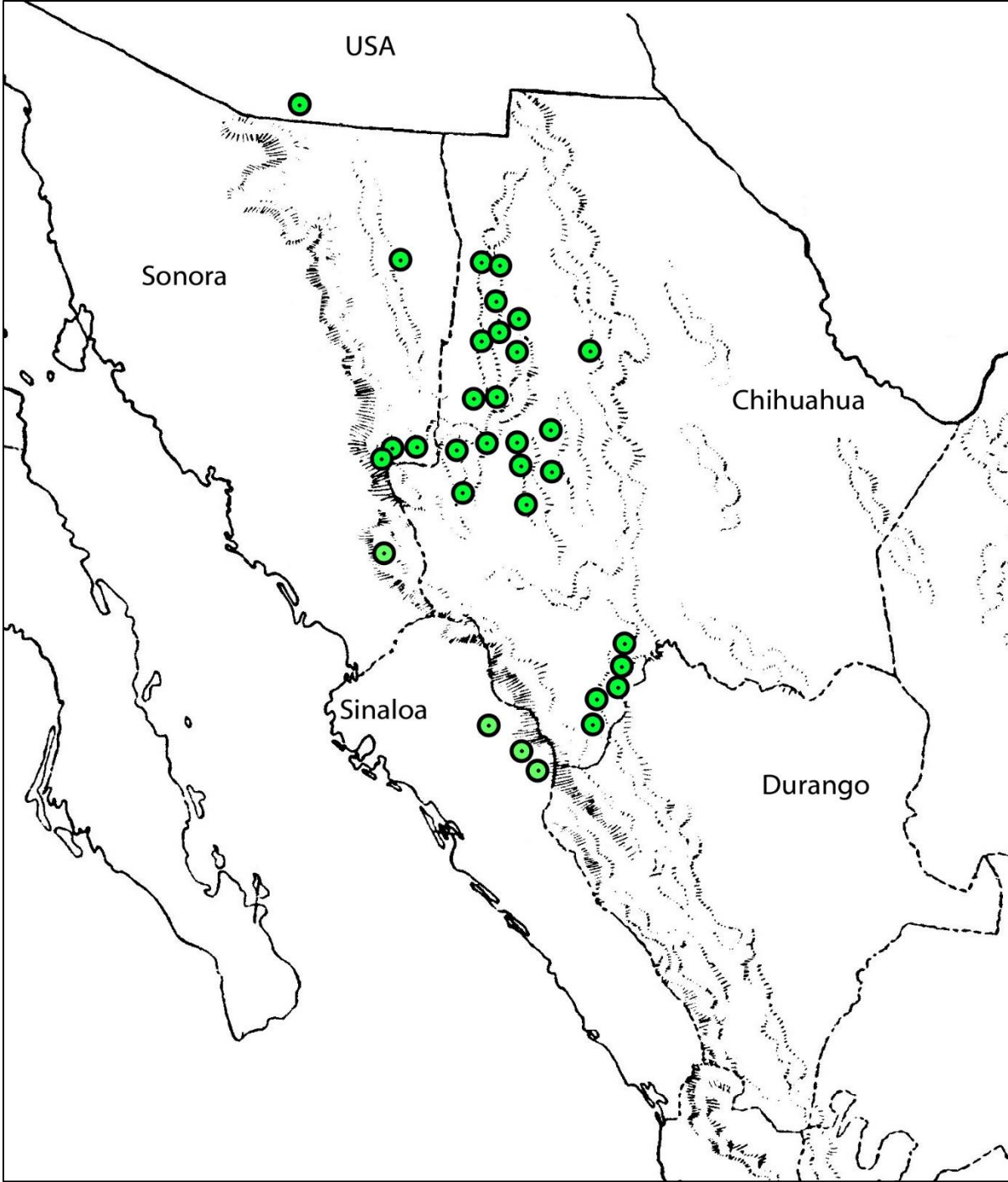


Figure 1. Distribution of *Erigeron wislizeni*. Records except the one from Cochise County are based on collections at TEX-LL, with those from Sinaloa added from the earlier revisional study of sect. *Polyactis* (Nesom 1989).

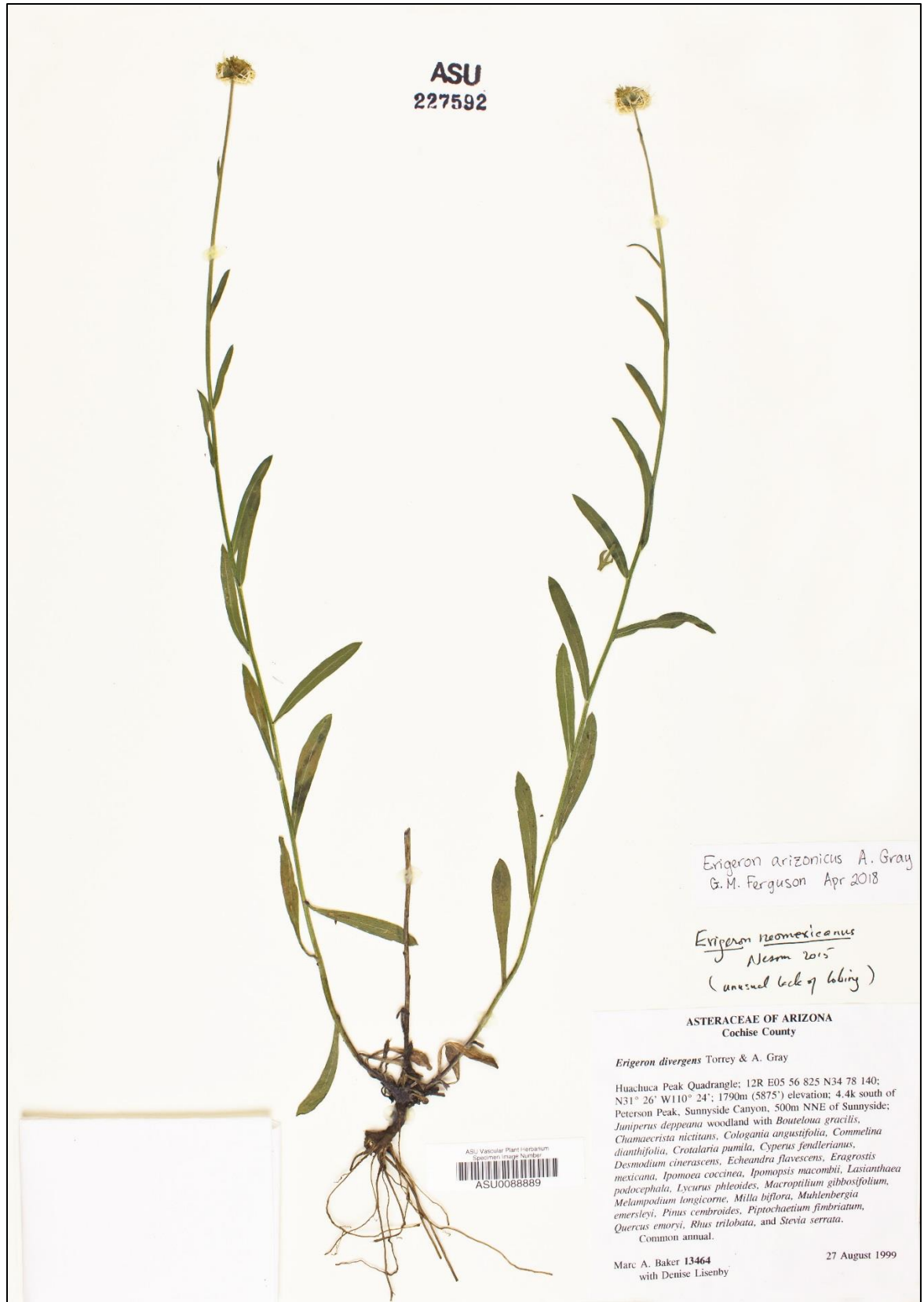


Figure 2. *Erigeron wislizeni*. Cochise Co., Baker 13464 (ASU). Misidentified in 2015 by the first author, who failed to see the lack of pappus.



Figure 3. *Erigeron wislizeni*. Cochise Co., Baker 13464 (ARIZ).