A NEW SPECIES OF *GALIUM* (RUBIACEAE) FROM
SAN LUIS POTOSI (MEXICO)

Lauramay T. Dempster*

In 1911, C. A. Purpus collected a *Galium* (number 5557) in the Sierra de Guascama (Huascalámá acc. Sousa, 1969), San Luis Potosí, which was distributed as *G. anglicum* Huds. The misdetermination was based not only on the fact that no correct determination was possible under existing nomenclature, but also on the fact that the material, although abundant, is largely denuded of leaves, flowers and fruits. Fortunately, J. Rzedowski in 1954 made four more collections of this unnamed species within 10 km west and southwest of Guadalcázar (numbers 4693, 4998, 5349, 5384), thus providing a better basis for understanding and describing it. It may now be seen that the sparse and dilapidated condition of the Purpus material is due largely to the nature of the plants themselves, which consist in every instance of long slender stems with very small linear leaves set far apart and apparently somewhat fugacious. The flowers and fruits are few and small.

It seems appropriate to name this new species for Dr. Rzedowski, who rediscovered and recollected it. Thanks are owing to Rimo Bacigalupi for editing the Latin.

Galium rzedowskii Dempster, sp. nov.

Planta perennis herbacea procumbens, caulibus glabris tenuibus usque ad 80 cm longis, internodiis ad 9 cm, quam foliis 2.5-5(10)-plo longioribus. Folia quatuor filiformia vel linearia, 5-15(25) mm longa, paene glabra, margine pilis brevibus crassiusculis curvatis instructa. Inflorescentiae pauciflorae laterales, ramulis filiformibus insidentes. Flores perfecti corollis rotatis lacteis ut videtur. Fructus sicci, pilis crassis unguiformibus instructi.

Type: MEXICO: San Luis Potosí: Aguaje de Garcías, 10 km west of Guadalcázar, *Rzedowski* 4693 (Holotype, ENCB; isotype, MEXU).

Slender herbaceous sprawling perennial; stems glabrous, wiry, to 80 cm long, the internodes to 9 cm long, 2.5-5 (-10) times as long as the leaves; leaves (at least the lower) 4 to a node, 5-15 (-25) mm long, filiform to linear, glabrous

* Jepson Herbarium, Univ. of California, Berkeley, California, 94720, U.S.A.

except for a few short, curved, apically-directed hairs on margins and midribs; inflorescence in lax few-flowered clusters on short filiform lateral branchlets; flowers perfect; corollas rotate, apparently cream-colored; fruits dry, ca. 2 mm across, consisting of two cerebriiform halves joined at the middle and separating in maturity, rather densely set with stout, apically-directed, talon-shaped hairs.

Hills north and east of San Luis Potosí, S. L. P. Calcareous slopes at 1350-1700 m.

SUMMARY

A new species of Rubiaceae from San Luis Potosí, *Galium rzedowskii*, is described and illustrated.

RESUMEN

Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie de Rubiaceae: *Galium rzedowskii*, proveniente del estado de San Luis Potosí.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

SCUSA SÁNCHEZ, MARIO. 1969. Las colecciones botánicas de C. A. Purpus en México. *Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot.* 51:1-36.

Galium rzedowskii Dempster. A, habit x $\frac{3}{4}$; B, branchlet with flower and fruit, x 4; C, flower, x 11; D, fruit hairs, x 60.