

# **Eriogonum vespinum (Polygonaceae), a New Species from Eastern Texas**

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**ERIOGONUM vespinum** Shinnery, sp. nov. Ab *E. longifolium* Nutt. differt caulibus altioribus (usque ad 2 m.) cum pilis longioribus adscendentibus vel subpatentibus; foliis supra tenuiter villosis; involucribus angustioribus longe pedunculatis (pedunculis 5-25 mm. longis involucribus aequantibus vel plerumque excedentibus). TYPE: gray sand along roadside bordering upland pine-oak woods, 3.5 miles south of Ore City, Upshur Co., Texas, *Shinnery 18967*, 24 June 1954 (in Herb. Southern Methodist University). The following key summarises the principal differences between *E. longifolium* and *E. vespinum*.

- Plant 0.3-1.3 m. tall; stem pubescence dense, more or less tangled or matted and close; leaf blades rather densely villous above with subappressed hairs; peduncles 0.5-6 mm. long in anthesis, much shorter than to equalling the involucribus (up to 9 mm. and as much as 1.7 times as long as the involucribus in age); involucribus cup-shaped or broadly conical, 4-6 mm. long and 3-6 mm. broad, densely tomentose with somewhat appressed or matted hairs; stipe-like base of hypanthium 0.5-1.2 mm. long; achene about 5 mm. long (including beak); chalk or limestone outcrops, or calcareous clay or sandy clay soils, prairies and oak openings, west of the Pine Belt; flowering June (Trans-Pecos and Panhandle) or July to October..... *E. longifolium*
- Plant 1-2 m. tall; stem pubescence sparser and longer, both appressed and ascending in lower part of stem, spreading-ascending in upper; leaf blades thinly villous above; peduncles 5-15 mm. long in anthesis, equalling or exceeding the involucribus (up to 25 mm. in age); involucribus conical, 4-5 mm. long and 2.5-4 mm. broad, villous with longer, looser, somewhat fewer hairs; stipe-like base of hypanthium 1.5-2.5 mm. long; achene 4.0-4.2 mm. long (including beak); sandy pine woods, eastern Texas; flowering June-July..... *E. vespinum*

*Eriogonum vespinum* is named in allusion to the numerous small dark wasps (Vespidae-Eumeninae) which eagerly sought its flowers and repeatedly returned when driven away. The following additional collections are in the S.M.U. Herbarium:

HARDIN Co.: 7¼ miles west of Silsbee, *V. L. Cory 56620*, July 8, 1949. MORRIS Co.: Daingerfield State Park, *D. S. & H. B. Correll 12449*, June 5, 1946. SAN AUGUSTINE Co.: 5¼ miles north of San Augustine, *Cory 56531*, July 7, 1949. SMITH Co.: 3 miles west of Tyler, *Cory 56219*, May 21, 1949 (bud only); western Tyler, *Cory 56770*, July 11, 1949. UPSHUR Co.: 4.4 miles west of Rosewood, *Cory 57698*, August 8, 1950.

*E. longifolium*, *E. vespinum*, *E. floridanum* Small, and the Alabama endemic *E. Harperi* Goodman (Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 74: 329, 1947) form a group of closely related species

distinguished from each other by a number of small characters, in addition to geographic distribution and habitat. Whether this indicates recent origin or slow evolution can only be conjectured at present. They add another bit of evidence concerning the history of the Southern flora, particularly the relation between the Southeast and the Gulf Southwest. Bicentric distribution in the two regions of the same or sibling ("vicarious") species or varieties is also illustrated in *Froelichia*, *Astragalus*, *Asclepias*, *Hedyotis*, *Lygodesmia*, and other genera.

The type locality of *E. longifolium* is given by Nuttall (Trans. Amer. Philos. Soc. n.s. 5: 164, 1834) as "On the ledges of the Cadron rocks, and in denudated prairies from Arkansas to Red River." *E. texanum* Scheele (Linnaea 22: 150, 1849; type from north of New Braunfels, *Lindheimer*; probable isotypes seen), *E. longifolium* var. *Lindheimeri* Gandoger (Bull. Soc. Bot. Belg. 42: 191, 1906; probably based on part of the same collection as *E. texanum*), and *E. longifolium* var. *caput-felis* Gandoger (l.c. 190; type from "Indian Territory ad Creek Nation," not seen) were rightly placed in synonymy under *E. longifolium* by Stokes (*The Genus Eriogonum*, p. 120, 1936). *E. longifolium* ssp. *diffusum* Stokes (l.c.; type from Ellis Co., Texas; not seen) is certainly no more than an abnormal growth form, branching from the base.