

**ZALUZANIA AUGUSTA (ASTERACEAE: HELIANTHEAE)  
NEW TO THE FLORA OF CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Zaluzania augusta* (Lag.) Sch.-Bip. is reported for the first time from the Mexican state of Chihuahua, a northwest range extension of about 250 air kilometers from the previously northernmost site known in Durango. The record is from near Batopilas, in the barranca country on the west slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental, where a small population was encountered on a rocky south-facing slope. Photographs of the plant and a distribution map of the range of the species are provided.

**KEY WORDS:** *Zaluzania augusta*, Asteraceae, Heliantheae, Chihuahua flora, Batopilas, Mexican flora

On an excursion into the barranca country of western Chihuahua in September, 2012, primarily for the purpose of photographing plants of the region and to enjoy the area around Batopilas, we encountered a small population of a shrubby composite unfamiliar to us. We photographed the plant and prepared a specimen so that we could identify it. Later, using McVaugh (1984) we identified it to *Zaluzania*, and then to *Zaluzania augusta* (Lag.) Sch.-Bip. in Turner's 2012 treatment of the genus for Mexico. Though it easily keyed to that species, it was not reported from Chihuahua, and NMC had no comparative material. Dr. Billie Turner kindly confirmed our identification from our photographs and noted that as far as he knew it was indeed new to Chihuahua.

The record, which extends the known range of the species 250 km to the NW from northern Durango (Fig. 1), came from along the steep, marginally maintained rocky road that ascends the ridge dividing the Río Batopilas and Río Urique drainages, a road that runs from Batopilas to Urique. We had noticed three or four shrubs of this plant in less than a kilometer of travel, one along the road, and had stopped to examine other plants on a shaded rock road cut when at that time we photographed and vouchered what was later determined to be *Zaluzania* (Figs. 2, 3).

**Voucher:** MEXICO. Chihuahua. Along Batopilas – Urique road 8.6 road km N of crossing of Río Batopilas, ca. 10 air km NE of Batopilas, 27°03'09.4" N, 107°45'35.7" W., elev. 1500 m, steep, rocky, igneous, S-facing slope, open, with *Montanoa*, *Dodonaea*, *Senna*, and on the nearby rock road cut *Agave vilmoriniana*, *Perityle batopilensis*, and *Castilleja tenuiflora*; locally common shrub to ca. 1.5 m tall, stems woody, to 3 cm diam., leaves bicolor, grayish-green, flower heads deep yellow; 25 Sep 2012, Spellenberg & Anderson 14486 (NMC).

As Turner (2012) wrote, the species is widespread and variable. It occurs in more than a dozen Mexican states from the Central Plateau northward (Fig. 1). Our collection is easily recognized

by its shrubby habit, simple, grayish, more or less bicolored, aromatic leaves, deep yellow, radiate, small heads in corymbs (Figs. 2–5), and the flared bases of the corolla tubes characteristic of *Zaluzania*.

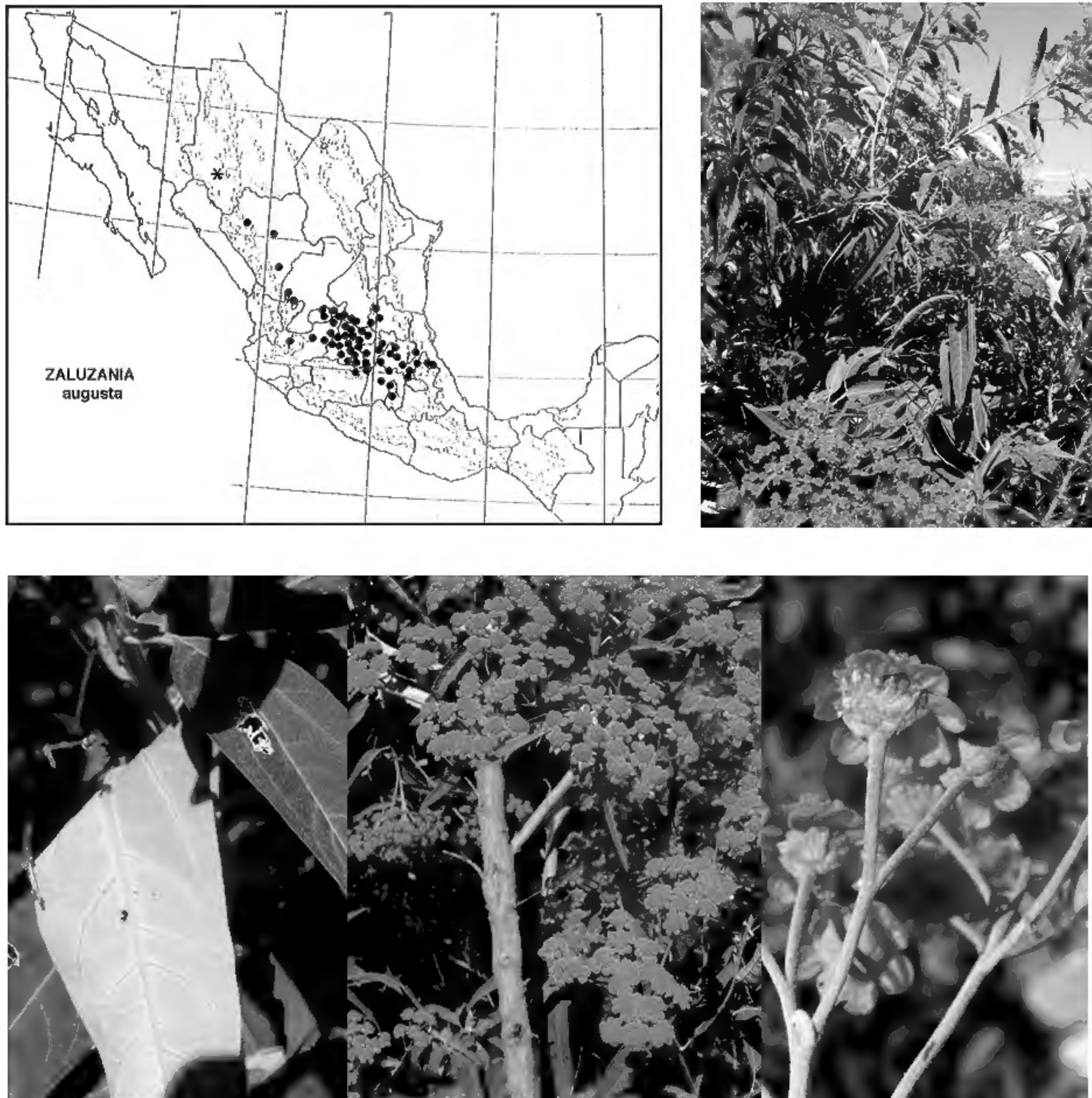


Figure 1 (top left). Geographic distribution of *Zaluzania augusta*; new record in Chihuahua indicated by asterisk (original map from Turner, 2012). Figs. 2-5 (top right and bottom row left to right; images of *Z. augusta*. Figure 2. Habit. Figure 3. Bicolored leaves. Figure 4. Corymb of heads. Figure 5. Involucre (photographs by W. Anderson).

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on the sinuous road dropping into Urique, we were temporarily stranded by insufficient gasoline to return to Creel and by oncoming darkness with 3 hours of rural gravel and rock road still before us before we were back to pavement. These individuals and others of their family were a joy to know.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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