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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Type designations for three names applicable to Mexican species of *Dysphania* (*Chenopodiaceae* s. str. / *Amaranthaceae* s. l.), and a new combination

Manuel Higinio SANDOVAL-ORTEGA ¹ , Silvia ZUMAYA-MENDOZA ^{2,*} 

¹ Universidad de Sonora, DICTUS, Herbario USON, Niños Héroes, entre Rosales y Pino Suárez, Col. Centro, Hermosillo, Sonora C.P. 83000, México

² Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Facultad de Ciencias, Ciudad Universitaria, Coyoacán, Ciudad de México, C.P. 04510, México

* Author for correspondence: szumaya@ciencias.unam.mx

Abstract. The names *Ambrina dissecta*, *Chenopodium incisum*, and *Chenopodium stellatum* are taxonomically assessed and their lectotypes are designated, the specimens preserved at P and GH. These three names refer to species currently placed in the genus *Dysphania*, but no formal combination was published for the species earlier known as *Chenopodium incisum*. Consequently, we here propose the new nomenclatural combination: *Dysphania incisa* (Poir.) Sandoval-Ortega & Zumaya-Mendoza, comb. nov. (based on *Chenopodium incisum* Poir.).

Keywords: *Amaranthaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Dysphania*, epazote, herbarium, lectotype, Mexico, nomenclature

Introduction

Species of the tribe *Dysphanieae* Pax (*Chenopodiaceae* s. str. / *Amaranthaceae* s. l.) have a rather wide distribution in warm temperate to tropical regions of all continents, excluding Antarctica. They are especially well represented in the subtropics and

tropical mountainous deserts. Currently, the tribe is represented by four genera: *Dysphania* R. Br. (incl. *Cycloloma* Moq.), *Neomonolepis* Sukhor., *Suckleya* A. Gray, and *Teloxys* Moq. (see Uotila et al., 2021). *Dysphania*, the largest, most widespread and diverse genus in the tribe, includes ca. 50 species, with the greatest species diversity in Australia and South

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America (see an overview in Uotila et al., 2021, and references therein).

In Mexico, a total of eight *Dysphania* species are reported of which seven are considered native [*Dysphania ambrosioides* (L.) Mosyakin & Clemants, *D. anthelmintica* (L.) Mosyakin & Clemants, *D. atriplicifolia* (Spreng.) G. Kadereit, Sukhor. & Uotila, *D. botrys* (L.) Mosyakin & Clemants, *D. dissecta* (Moq.) Mosyakin & Clemants, *D. stellata* (S. Watson) Mosyakin & Clemants, and the species that until recently was reported mostly as *D. graveolens* (with the authorship cited as either “(Willd.) Mosyakin & Clemants” or “(Lag. & Rodr.) Mosyakin & Clemants”) (see, e.g. Clemants, Mosyakin, 2002; Villaseñor, 2016, Sandoval Ortega et al., 2017; Mosyakin, 2021; POWO, 2025] and one alien [*D. carinata* (R. Br.) Mosyakin & Clemants, native to Australia] (Sandoval Ortega et al., 2017).

In the country, some species of *Dysphania* are part of the folk traditions and diet of people, like *D. ambrosioides* (known as “epazote”) consumed as condiment and used as medicinal, and *D. graveolens* (known as “epazote de zorrillo”) also used as medicinal (Sandoval-Ortega, Siqueiros-Delgado, 2019; Sandoval-Ortega et al., 2023).

The study of the members of *Amaranthaceae* s. l. (including *Chenopodiaceae*) occurring in Mexico needs a first-step nomenclatural analysis in order to ensure the proper application of names (Sandoval-Ortega, Zumaya-Mendoza, 2023a).

As part of the ongoing study of the flora of Guerrero (Mexico) (see, e.g. Bustamante-García, González-Hidalgo, 2022; Fonseca, 2022) and the taxonomic revision of the family *Amaranthaceae* in Mexico (Sandoval-Ortega, Zumaya-Mendoza, 2023a, 2023b, 2024), we present here a nomenclatural note dealing with some names applicable to species of *Dysphania* that occur in Mexico.

Material and Methods

Specimens deposited in the Herbaria ENCB, MEXU, FCME, USON, and HUAA were directly examined (acronyms follow Thiers, 2025 [continuously updated]). Pertinent literature (protologues included) was also considered (Clemants, Mosyakin, 2003; Uotila et al., 2021, etc.). In addition, online images of specimens preserved at NY, P, and US (NY Herbarium, 2025; P Herbarium, 2025; US Herbarium, 2025), and those occurring in the Red de Herbarios Mexicanos (RHM, 2025) and the

JSTOR Global Plants platform (JSTOR, 2025) were analyzed. The articles of the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* cited in the text follow the currently available published edition, i.e. the *Shenzhen Code* (hereafter reported as the “ICN”; Turland et al., 2018).

Results and Discussion

Dysphania incisa (Poir.) Sandoval-Ortega & Zumaya-Mendoza, **comb. nov.** $\equiv$ *Chenopodium incisum* Poir., Encycl. [J. Lamarck & al.] Suppl. 1(1): 392. 1810 $\equiv$ *Ambrina incisa* (Poir.) Moq., Chenop. Monogr. Enum.: 36 1840 $\equiv$ *Neobotrydium incisum* (Poir.) M.L. Zhang & G.L. Chu, Pl. Diversity 38: 326. 2016.

TYPE (**lectotype, here designated**): Hort. Paris, s.f., J.L.M. Poiret (P00606423, Fig. 1; image available from: <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.p00606423>).

$\equiv$ *Chenopodium graveolens* Lag. & Rodr., Anales Ci. Nat. 5: 70. 1802 $\equiv$ *Dysphania graveolens* (Lag. & Rodr.) Mosyakin & Clemants, Ukrayins'k. Bot. Zhurn. 78(4): 271. 2021, *nom. illeg.* (later homonym of *D. graveolens* Mosyakin & Clemants, 2002: 383, Art. 53.1 of the ICN).

TYPE (lectotype designated by Mosyakin, 2021): Country of origin unknown, culta in hoc regio horto anno 1801. Floruit Septembri, M. Lagasca & D.J. Rodríguez s.n. (MA214007, image available from: <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/view-er/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.ma214007>).

$\equiv$ *Chenopodium graveolens* Willd., Enum. Pl. 1: 290. 1809, *nom. illeg., non C. graveolens* Lag. & Rodr., 1802 (Art. 53.1 of the ICN) $\equiv$ *Dysphania graveolens* Mosyakin & Clemants, Ukrayins'k. Bot. Zhurn. 59(4): 383. 2002.

TYPE: not designated.

Notes on the type of the name *Chenopodium incisum*. The protologue of *C. incisum* (Poiret in Lamarck, 1810: 392) consists of a short diagnosis (“*Chenopodium foliis ovatis, inciso-angulatis; racemis axillaribus, minimis, paucifloris*”), a morphological description, and the provenance as “J’ai observé cette espèce au Jardin des Plantes. Son lieu natal ne m’est point connu ... (V. v.) [= *Vidi vivo*]” (“I observed this species in the Botanical Garden. I do not know its place of origin”); “Hort. Paris” was reported after the binomial. We traced at P a Poiret collection (barcode P00606423) annotated

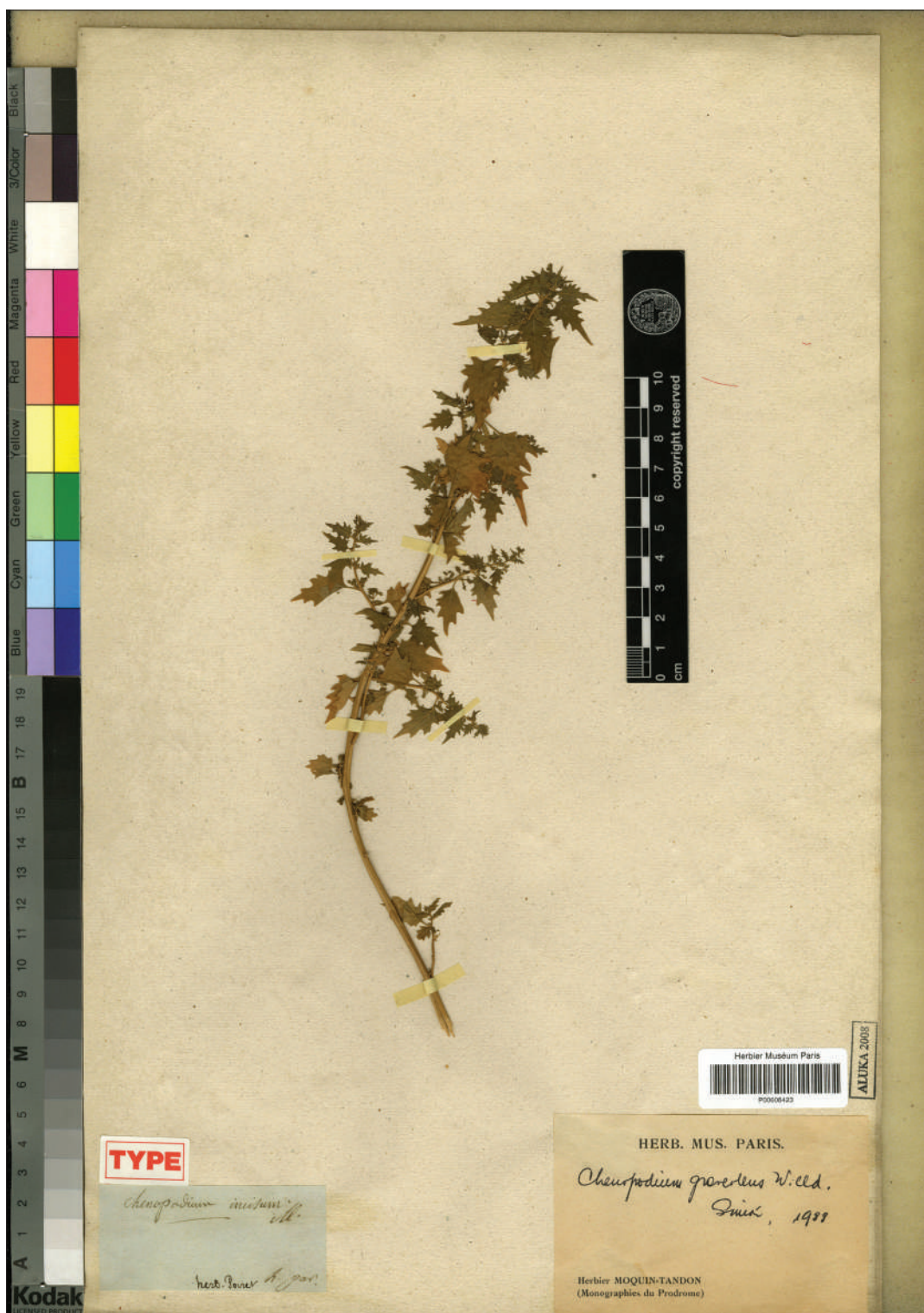


Fig. 1. Lectotype (designated here) of *Chenopodium incisum* Poir., deposited in Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (P00606423). Available at: <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.p00606423>



Fig. 2. Lectotype (designated here) of *Ambrina dissecta* Moq., deposited in Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (P00606421). Available at: <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.p00606421>



Fig. 3. Lectotype (designated here) of *Chenopodium stellatum* S. Watson, deposited in Harvard University Herbaria (GH00037205). Available at: <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.gh00037205>

with “*h. par.*” (*Hortus parisiensis*), the information matching the protologue. Since no holotype was indicated in the protologue (see Note 1 of Art. 9.1 of the *ICN*, as well as comments by McNeill, 2014), this specimen can be considered for the lectotypification purpose. Here we designate the specimen P00606423 (Fig. 1) as the lectotype (see Art. 9.3 and 9.4 of the *ICN*). P00606423 corresponds to the current concept of the species (Clemants, Mosyakin, 2003; Calderón de Rzedowski, 2005) showing the following diagnostic characters: leaf blade margins lobed to pinnatifid, inflorescences compound cymes, perianth lobes with a subapical spiniform tubercle.

In POWO (2025–onwards) the name *Dysphania graveolens* (Lag. & Rodr.) Mosyakin & Clemants (basionym: *Chenopodium graveolens* Lag. & Rodr.; see Lagasca, Rodríguez, 1802: 70) is listed as an illegitimate name and a synonym of the “accepted” provisional combination *D. incisa* (as “*Dysphania incisa* (Poir.) ined.”). In this online resource, names can be found listed as “nom. ined.”, a practice used to discover synonyms and subsequently put them under the correct name: see similar cases discussed by de Lange and James (2024). However, Mosyakin (2021) provided arguments for a different interpretation of the nomenclatural status of the names applied to this taxon. Despite that, we think it advisable to propose here the new combination in *Dysphania* based on the name *Chenopodium incisum* Poir. That new combination should be used for this species if the nomenclatural interpretation of POWO is considered correct, which we explicitly accept here.

Dysphania dissecta (Moq.) Mosyakin & Clemants, J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 2(1): 429. 2008 ≡ *Ambrina dissecta* Moq., Chenop. Monogr. Enum. 38. 1840 ≡ *Chenopodium bipinnatifidum* Moric. ex Moq. in DC., Podr. 13(2): 76. 1849. *nom. superfl. et illeg.* (Art. 52.2 of the *ICN*) ≡ *Chenopodium dissectum* (Moq.) Standley, N. Amer. Fl. 21(1): 26. 1916.

TYPE (**lectotype, here designated**): Mexico, circa Mexico, 15 Aug. 1827, Berlandier 613 (P00606421, Fig. 2; image available from <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.p00606421>); **isolectotypes**: G00686553, P00606420, P00606422, P01190882, P01190883, and P01190884.

– *Chenopodium bipinnatifidum* Moric. ex Moq., Chenop. Monogr. Enum. 38. 1840. *nom. inval. pro syn.* (Art. 36.1b of the *ICN*).

Notes on the type of *Ambrina dissecta* Moq.

The protologue of *A. dissecta* (Moquin-Tandon, 1840: 38) consists of a morphological description, the provenance (“*circa Mexico*”) and the name of the collector (“*legit Berlandier*”). The name “*Chenopodium bipinnatifidum* in herb. Moricand” was reported as a synonym and it is, therefore, invalid according to Art. 36.1b of the *ICN*. Note that *Chenopodium bipinnatifidum* was validly published nine years later by the same author, Moquin-Tandon (1849: 76), who reported his *Ambrina dissecta* in synonymy and cited a Berlandier’s specimen no. 613, which is clearly that reported under *Ambrina dissecta* in *Chenopodearum Monographica Enumeratio*. Furthermore, Moquin-Tandon (1849: 76) reported “*v. s. in Delessert. DC. et Moric.*” (also cited in *Chenopodearum Monographica Enumeratio*).

Most specimens from the three authors cited (Berlandier, Delessert, and Moricand) by Moquin-Tandon are currently deposited in G (see HUH-Index of Botanists, 2025). Note that (1) Moricand’s herbarium that was given to the Conservatoire botanique de la ville de Genève by Moricand’s son in 1908 (see <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.person.bm000005815>) and (2) when Delessert Botanical Museum closed, the herbarium was also moved to Geneva, where it contributed to the core collection of the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques (Hoquet, 2014).

We found one specimen identified as *Chenopodium bipinnatifidum* at G-DC (barcode G00686553) which is annotated with the collection number (“613”), the locality (“*Mexico in montibus*”), and the date of collection (“15.8.1827”); no collector name is reported.

In P there are six specimens stored under the name *Chenopodium bipinnatifidum* (barcodes P01190884, P01190882, P01190883, P00606421, P00606420, and P00606422), all collected by Berlandier with the collection number “613”; five of them (P01190882, P01190883, P00606421, P00606420, and P00606422) reported the collection date (“15.8.1827”).

Thanks to high resolution images kindly provided by the staff of P and G, we confirmed that the material deposited at P and G00686553 specimen refer to the same species. Additionally, the label on G00686553 shows the same handwriting as the labels on P00606422 and P01190883. Thus, it is most probable (almost certain) that G00686553 is also part of the original material collected by Berlandier.

When Moquin-Tandon described *Ambrina dissecta* he did not cite a collection number in the protologue, only the collector's name: Berlandier. However, more information about the material from Moricand's herbarium that Moquin-Tandon consulted to describe *A. dissecta* was provided by Moquin-Tandon himself when he published the name *Chenopodium bipinnatifidum* in De Candolle's *Prodromus systematis naturalis regni vegetabilis* (Moquin-Tandon, 1849: 76) where he refers to material from Moricand's herbarium collected by Berlandier under the number "613", and also cited the name *A. dissecta* as a synonym.

Thus, the specimens P01190884, P01190882, P01190883, P00606421, P00606420, P00606422, and G00686553 are syntypes (see Art. 9.6 of the ICN). Here, the specimen P00606421 (Fig. 2) is designated as the lectotype of the name *A. dissecta* Moq. (see Art. 9.3 and 9.4 of the ICN) since it matches the protologue, is in good condition, and shows flowers and fruits; P01190884, P01190882, P01190883, P00606420, P00606422, and G00686553 are isolectotypes. All specimens aforementioned correspond to the current concept of the species (Uotila et al., 2021) showing the following diagnostic characters: leaf blades pinnatisected and perianth segments 5, deeply split, not contiguous, abaxially swollen in fruit.

Chenopodium bipinnatifidum Moric. ex Moq., as published in Candolle's *Prodromus systematis naturalis regni vegetabilis*, is a superfluous and illegitimate name since the validly published name *A. dissecta* Moq. was cited as a synonym (Art. 52.2 of the ICN).

Dysphania stellata (S. Watson) Mosyakin & Clemants, J. Bot. Res. Inst. Texas 2(1): 429. 2008 ≡ *Chenopodium stellatum* S. Watson, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 18: 146. 1883 ≡ *Meiomeria stellata* (S. Watson) Standl., N. Amer. Fl. 21: 7. 1916.

TYPE (**lectotype, here designated**): MEXICO, Coahuila, "Mts. 21 m. N.E. of Monclova" [Mountains 21 miles northeast of Monclova], Sept. 1880, *Palmer 1155* (GH00037205, Fig. 3;

image available from: <https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.gh00037205>); **isolectotypes**: F0054121F, K000583159, NY00324331, NY00005489, US00169596, YU001087.

Notes on the type of the name *Chenopodium stellatum*. The protologue of *C. stellatum* (Watson, 1883: 146) consists of a morphological description, *locus classicus* ("In the Mountains northeast Monclova, Coahuila") and a number of collection ("1155"). The latter citation can be interpreted as syntypes (Art. 9.6 of the ICN). We traced six specimens at F, GH, K, NY, YU, and US), all numbered with "1155" and bearing plants collected in Mountains northeast of Monclova. GH00037205 (Fig. 3) is here designated as the lectotype since it matches the protologue, shows flowers and fruits, is in good condition, and when *C. stellatum* was published, Watson was a curator in the Gray Herbarium (HUH Index of Botanists, 2025). All aforementioned specimens correspond to the current concept of the species (Uotila et al., 2021) showing the following diagnostic characters: leaf blades linear, perianth segments 6–9, briefly connate at the base, concave, linear, not contiguous, strongly swollen abaxially and winged in fruit.

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ETHICS DECLARATION

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

ORCID

M.H. Sandoval-Ortega:  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1396-9024>

S. Zumaya-Mendoza:  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0337-4924>

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**Типіфікація трьох назв, які стосуються мексиканських видів
роду *Dysphania* (*Chenopodiaceae* s. str. / *Amaranthaceae* s. l.),
з новою номенклатурною комбінацією**

М.І. САНДОВАЛЬ-ОРТЕГА ¹, С. СУМАЯ-МЕНДОСА ²

¹ Університет Сонори, Ермосійо, штат Сонора, Мексика

² Національний автономний університет Мексики, Університетське містечко, Мехіко, Мексика

Реферат. Назви *Ambrina dissecta*, *Chenopodium incisum* і *Chenopodium stellatum* оцінено таксономічно та встановлено їхні лектотипи на основі зразків з гербаріїв P та GH. Ці три назви стосуються видів, які на даний час включені до роду *Dysphania*, але для виду, раніше відомого як *Chenopodium incisum*, не існувало відповідної номенклатурної комбінації у цьому роді. Тому ми пропонуємо тут нову номенклатурну комбінацію: *Dysphania incisa* (Poir.) Sandoval-Ortega & Zumaya-Mendoza, comb. nov. (базионім: *Chenopodium incisum* Poir.).

Ключові слова: *Amaranthaceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Dysphania*, гербарій, епазот, лектотип, Мексика, номенклатура