



Correspondence

A new synonym of *Lepechinia* (Salviinae: Lamiaceae)

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Chaunostoma Donnell Smith (1895: 9) and *Lepechinia* Willdenow (1804: 20, pl. 21) belong to the subtribe Salviinae of the Lamiaceae (Harley *et al.* 2004). *Chaunostoma* is known as a monotypic genus and is restricted to South Mexico (Chiapas) and Guatemala. However, the generic delimitation of *Chaunostoma* has been questioned because of the close relationship with *Lepechinia*, which includes ca. 40 species and is mainly distributed from Argentina to Mexico and Northern California (Epling 1948). In fact, *Chaunostoma* differs from *Lepechinia* only by cauliflorous inflorescences and the arched stamens (Epling 1948, Harley *et al.* 2004). Nevertheless, since the arched stamens can also be found in *Lepechinia* (Epling 1948, Walker & Sytsma 2007), the generic status of *Chaunostoma* has become increasingly problematic within Salviinae. Following a recent phylogenetic study, *Chaunostoma* and *Lepechinia* are considered together as a monophyletic group within Salviinae (Drew & Sytsma 2011). The micromorphological characteristics of these two genera support the same conclusions as the molecular phylogeny. For example, *Chaunostoma* and *Lepechinia* produce perforate pollen grains while the other members of Salviinae possess biretulate pollen grains (Moon *et al.* 2008). Moreover the areolate abscission scar of the nutlets is a synapomorphic condition for *Chaunostoma* and *Lepechinia* (Moon *et al.* 2009). Therefore, the new synonym and the necessary combination are proposed here.

Lepechinia Willdenow (1804: 20, pl. 21). Type: *Lepechinia spicata* Willdenow (1804: 21, pl. 21).

Chaunostoma Donnell Smith (1895: 9), *syn. nov.* Type: *Chaunostoma mecistandrum* Donnell Smith (1895: 9, pl. 3).

Lepechinia mecistandrum (Donn.Sm.) H. K. Moon, *comb. nov.* *Chaunostoma mecistandrum* Donnell Smith (1895: 9, pl. 3). Type:—GUATEMALA. Dept. Santa Rosa: growing in patches on shaded mountain summits near Buena Vista, 6000 ft, 20 December 1892, Heyde & Lux 4368 (holotype US!; isotypes GH!, MO!).

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