



## A new species of *Hechtia* (Bromeliaceae) from southwestern Tamaulipas, Mexico

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### Abstract

A new species of *Hechtia* from the Mexican State of Tamaulipas is herein proposed as new: *Hechtia hernandez-sandovalii*, which is known only from the municipality of Villa de Miquihuana in the southwestern portion of the state. The new species is easily recognized by the following combination of characters: its white cotton-like indument (turning brownish with age) on the branches, rachis, and peduncle of both staminate and pistillate inflorescences. The new taxon is compared with *H. glomerata*, a species morphologically similar.

### Resumen

Una nueva especie de *Hechtia* Klotszsch del estado mexicano de Tamaulipas se propone como nueva: *Hechtia hernandez-sandovalii*, la cual se conoce solo del Municipio de Villa de Miquihuana en la porción suroeste del estado. La nueva especie se reconoce fácilmente por la siguiente combinación de caracteres: inflorescencia, ramas, pedúnculo y raquis cubiertas por un indumento blanco parecido al algodón, que se torna café con el tiempo. El nuevo taxón se compara con *H. glomerata*, especie morfológicamente similar.

**Key words:** Dioecy, endemism, *Hechtia glomerata*, IUCN, lateral inflorescence

### Introduction

*Hechtia* Klotzsch (1835: 401) members range from Southern Texas (Big Bend National Park) to northern Nicaragua in Central America (Departments of Nueva Segovia and Jinotega), occurring on an area defined as Megamexico III by Rzedowski (1991). Most of the species of the genus are in Mexico (94% of them) and are endemic to it; Oaxaca houses ca. 20 species (Espejo *et al.*, 2007), but species numbers decrease toward northern Mexico, with only 2-3 species reported for the northern states of Baja California: *H. montana* Brandege (1889: 9) and *H. gayorum* Lenz (1995: 59), and only three species reported from Tamaulipas: *H. epigyna* Harms (1935: 531–532) described from Jaumave but recently reported from Hidalgo as well (Espejo *et al.*, 2010b), *H. mexicana* Smith (1935: 149) described from Sierra del Abra in San Luis Potosí, and *H. glomerata* Zuccarini (1840:240). This last binomial has been applied to several populations from Tamaulipas in Mexico to Honduras in Central America but the status of this species was recently clarified by Jiménez (2011) and Espejo *et al.* (2010a) currently remaining restricted to the Mexican states of Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Querétaro, and San Luis Potosí. Espejo *et al.* (2004) referred *Hechtia* populations from several municipalities in Tamaulipas to *H. glomerata*. Among these, some actually represent a new entity from the Municipio de Miquihuana, herein described as a new species and henceforth compared with *H. glomerata*.