



## *Salvia ramamoorthyana* and *S. omissa* (Lamiaceae), two names for two old and largely confused species from Mexico

JESÚS GUADALUPE GONZÁLEZ-GALLEGOS<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CONACYT Research Fellow—Centro Interdisciplinario de Investigación para el Desarrollo Integral Regional (CIIDIR), Unidad Durango, Instituto Politécnico Nacional (IPN), Sigma 119, Fraccionamiento 20 de Noviembre II, Durango 34220, Durango, Mexico; e-mail: xanergo@hotmail.com

### Abstract

The original material of *Salvia ramamoorthyana* (*S.* sect. *Sigmoideae*) is mixed and belongs to two different species. The type corresponds to a taxon generally known as *S. nepetoides*. Instead, the analysis of the holotype of *S. nepetoides* (P!) showed that this does not correspond with the taxon traditionally identified as such but belongs to *S. amarissima*, a species of *S.* sect. *Uricae*. Hence, *S. ramamoorthyana* is re-circumscribed to the plants usually named *S. nepetoides* (*S.* sect. *Sigmoideae*), the true *S. nepetoides* is regarded as synonym of *S. amarissima* (*S.* sect. *Uricae*) and the new species *S. omissa* is described to designate the taxon under the name *S. ramamoorthyana* not including its type. Descriptions and distribution maps of *S. omissa* and *S. ramamoorthyana* and an updated identification key to the species in the section are also provided.

### Resumen

El material original de *Salvia ramamoorthyana* (*S.* sect. *Sigmoideae*) es una mezcla de especímenes que incluyen a dos especies distintas. El tipo corresponde a un taxon generalmente conocido como *S. nepetoides*. A la par, el análisis del holotipo de *S. nepetoides* (P!) mostró que éste no corresponde al taxon tradicionalmente determinado como tal, sino que pertenece a *S. amarissima*, una especie de *S.* sect. *Uricae*. Por tanto, *S. ramamoorthyana* es re-circunscrita a las plantas nombradas como *S. nepetoides* (*S.* sect. *Sigmoideae*), la verdadera *S. nepetoides* es tratada como sinónimo de *S. amarissima* (*S.* sect. *Uricae*) y *S. omissa* se describe como una especie nueva para albergar al taxon bajo el nombre de *S. ramamoorthyana* que no incluye a su tipo. Se proveen descripciones y mapas de distribución de *S. omissa* y *S. ramamoorthyana* y una clave actualizada para la determinación de las especies de la sección.

### Introduction

*Salvia* Linnaeus (1753: 23) sect. *Sigmoideae* Epling (1939: 42) is one of the easiest groups to recognize among Mexican sages because of the sigmoid lower stigmatic branches and the presence of bracteoles at the base of each pedicel in addition to floral bracts (Epling 1939, Espejo Serna & Ramamoorthy 1993, González-Gallegos & Castro-Castro 2013). It is one of 114 sections that Epling and co-workers described to accommodate the diversity of *Salvia* subgen. *Calosphace* (Bentham 1833: 198) Epling (1939: 4) (Epling 1939, 1940, 1941, 1944, 1947, 1951, 1960, Epling & Mathias 1957, Epling & Játiva 1963, 1966, 1968). Recent taxonomic contributions (Espejo Serna & Ramamoorthy 1993, González-Gallegos & Castro-Castro 2013, González-Gallegos *et al.* 2013) have increased species richness of this group to 14. All members of the section are restricted to Mexico; they grow mainly in the mountain ranges of Faja Volcánica Transmexicana, Sierra Madre Occidental, Sierra Madre Oriental and Sierra Madre del Sur (Epling 1939, Espejo Serna & Ramamoorthy 1993, Klitgaard 2012). *Salvia* sect. *Sigmoideae* is one of the few Epling (1939) sections that have been recovered as a monophyletic group, though with a species representation in phylogenetic analyses below 25% (Jenks *et al.* 2013).

Espejo Serna & Ramamoorthy (1993) made the most recent taxonomic revision of *S.* sect. *Sigmoideae* and described the new species *Salvia ramamoorthyana* Espejo Serna (1993: 92). They highlighted that the glandular-capitate hairs on the calyx and the cuneate leaves set *S. ramamoorthyana* apart from all other species within the section. According to Espejo Serna & Ramamoorthy (1993) the closest species is *S. nepetoides* Kunth (1817: 299),