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THE TYPIFICATION OF ZAUSCHNERIA CALIFORNICA

PETER H. RAVEN

The curious onagraceous genus Zauschneria, which is closely related to Epilobium and confined to western North America, has been the subject of biosystematic study by Clausen, Keck, and Hiesey (Carn. Inst. Wash. Publ. 520: 213–259, 1950) and of several taxonomic treatments (e.g., Hilend, Am. J. Botan. 16: 58–68, 1929; Tralau, Botan. Not. Not. 111: 455–467, 1958). None of these authors, however, saw the type of Zauschneria californica Presl, which is preserved in the Botanical Department of the National Museum, Praha, Czechoslovakia. Through the courtesy of Dr. Albert Pilát, Director of this institution, I was recently able to examine the types of Zauschneria californica and of Z. mexicana, a second species described by Presl, the identity of which has been in some doubt.

Presl characterized Z. californica as having "foliis lineari-denticulatis integrisque..." and Z. mexicana as having "foliis linearis-lanceolatis integerrimis..." He gave the type locality of the former as "in California ad Monte-Rey," and of the latter as "Habitat in Mexico," but in view of the known distribution of the genus, and the route of the Malaspina Expedition, on which Thaddeus Haenke collected the specimens, both probably came from the vicinity of Monterey (cf. McKelvey, Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West, 1790–1850, pp. 15–25, 1955). Haenke was at Monterey from September 13–23, 1791, being the first botanist to visit what is now the state of California.

The type specimen of Zauschneria californica (fig. 2) as indicated by Presl, has linear leaves up to 1.5 (rarely 2) mm wide. It has only a single corolla, which is 22 mm long, and thus might possibly be referable to Z. cana Greene; but it is virtually impossible to distinguish Z. cana from Z. californica subsp. angustifolia Keck with such material, and the collection closely resembles certain collections of the latter. The type of Z. mexicana (fig. 1) on the other hand, is clearly what has been regarded as Z. californica subsp. typica Keck with lanceolate, less white-pubescent leaves 2–3 mm wide. The type of this species lacks flowers, although Presl says of it, "flores paulo majores." In view of these new data, the following synonymy and new combination are indicated (only the essential synonyms are given here, the rest having been indicated by Clausen, Keck, and Hiesey, op. cit.):

ZAUSCHNERIA CALIFORNICA Presl, Rel. Haenk. 2: 28, t. 52, 1831.

Z. californica subsp. typica Keck, Carn. Inst. Wash. Publ. 520: 220, 1940, as to type only.

Z. californica subsp. mexicana (Presl) Raven, comb. nov.

Fig. 1 (left).—Holotype of Zauschneria mexicana Presl.—Fig. 2 (right).—Holotype of Z. californica Presl. (Both × 0.43).

Special thanks are owing Mr. J. E. Dandy, Keeper, Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), in whose department I conducted this study while spending the year 1960–61 as a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellow, and also Dr. David D. Keck, who kindly offered advice on this problem. Mr. Dandy kindly gave permission for the photographs of types, which were taken at the British Museum (Natural History), to be reproduced here.