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A NEW SPECIES OF SALVIA FROM MEXICO

BY

CARL EPLING¹ AND CARLOS D. JÁTIVA-M.¹

IN the course of his studies of narcotic plants in southern Mexico, Mr. R. Gordon Wasson became interested in a member of the Labiatae which is employed by the Mazatec Indians of Oaxaca as a psychotropic drug.

An examination of material from the Mazatec country indicates that the plant in question is an undescribed species of *Salvia*:

Salvia divinorum (Dusenostachys) *Epling & Játiva*
sp. nov.

Herba perennis altitudine 1 m. et ultra, caulibus pilis plus minusve articulatis pubescentibus; foliorum laminis plus minusve ovatis, 12–15 cm. longis, in apice acumina-tis, in basi plus minusve rotundatis et ad petiolos 2–3 cm. longis attenuatis, ad margines crenato-serratis et in sinibus hirtellis, paginis ambabus glabratiss nisi inferiore ad venas hirtella; floribus in verticillastris sat distantibus ut videtur in paniculis amplis, ramis 30–40 cm. longis cyaneo-puberulis; pedicellis gracilibus 8–9 mm. longis; calycum cyaneorum glabrorum tubo in maturitate 15 mm. longorum labia superiore 1.5 mm. longa, imprimis 3-venia; corollarum cyanearum sigmoidearum tubo 22 mm. longo,

¹ Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of California, Los Angeles, California.

intus nudo, labia superiore 6 mm. alta, inferiore ut videtur brevior et incurva; staminibus ad fauces positis, inclusis, gubernaculo integro; stylo hirtello, ramo postico paulo longiore obtuso plano, antico ut videtur carinato.

MEXICO. Estado de Oaxaco. San José Tenango, in the Sierra Mazateca; in ravines with black soil marginal to the wet forest. September 8, 1962, *A. Hofmann & R. G. Wasson s.n.* (TYPE in Herb. Univ. Cal., Los Angeles; DUPLICATE TYPE in Econ. Herb. Oakes Ames).

Salvia divinorum is allied to *S. cyanea* Lamb. ex Benth., which is found in central Mexico. The former differs from the latter principally in respect to leaf shape (the attenuation of the blade) and the flattened upper style branch. The bracts of *Salvia divinorum* appear to be tardily deciduous. The species is doubtless striking in its habitat and might possibly be valuable if introduced into horticulture.

The specific name, which means "of the seers," refers to the curious use to which the plant is put by the Mazatec Indians and which Mr. Wasson describes in the following pages.