
Jaltomata grandiflora (Solanaceae): A Rare Mexican Species

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ABSTRACT. *Saracha grandiflora* is transferred to *Jaltomata* as *J. grandiflora*. The species appears to be rare: only three collections are known, all from the same locality. A closely related species of *Jaltomata*, *J. procumbens*, is undergoing progressive domestication in Mexico, and this species expands the representation of the genus in the region.

The generic concepts of *Saracha* Ruiz & Pavón and *Jaltomata* Schldl. have long been confused, and although recent workers (Gentry, 1973; Davis, 1980) have clarified the separation of the two groups, some species that were described as *Saracha* remain to be transferred to *Jaltomata*. This paper makes one such transfer.

Our interest in this species stems from seed collected (Davis 1114) from Mexico that has been grown and propagated over several years. The earliest name we found for the species is now in *Saracha* and not in *Jaltomata*, where it should be placed. Because the species is hitherto unknown except for the brief original description, we provide an illustration and an amplified description made from our cultivated plants and the holotype.

Jaltomata grandiflora (Robinson & Greenmann)

D'Arcy, Mione & Davis, comb. nov. Basionym: *Saracha grandiflora* Robinson & Greenmann, Amer. J. Sci., ser. 3. 161. 1895. TYPE: Mexico. Michoacán: hills near Patzcuaro, 22 July 1892, Pringle 5273 (GH). Figure 1.

Sprawling perennial herb to 1 m long, the ultimate branchlets ascending, growth often plagiotropic and the stems appearing somewhat zigzagged; rootstock large (14 cm long × 3 cm wide or larger) and starchy; pubescence white, erect, simple, multicellular hairs, these sometimes exuding minute clear droplets (glandular). Stems subterete or somewhat

pentagonal, drying angled, sometimes with reddish longitudinal stripes, weak, becoming stout, the pith large, becoming hollow with age, villous-velutinous with persistent, erect, weak, whitish, sometimes glandular hairs ca. 1 mm long and occasional hairs to 2 mm long. Leaves alternate along the stems or subequal-paired in the flowering regions, the nodes mostly 1–5 cm apart; lamina ovate, mostly 4–8(–12) cm long, 3–5(–8) cm wide, apically broadly acute or obtuse, basally short-cuneate and winging the distal portion of the stems, the margins entire or 2–3 sinuate-lobed on each side, softly membranous, major veins ca. 5 on each side, slightly arcuate, bifurcating near the margins into one trace leading into a lobe, and another looping and anastomosing to form a weak, undulating submarginal vein, the venation pellucid, above fine and slightly impressed, beneath thick, elevated, and conspicuously white-strigulose, villous overall with weak erect hairs, more densely so proximally and above, ciliate, slightly discolorous, slightly shiny above, drying paler beneath; petioles 1–2.5(–5) cm long, longer and sometimes reddish beneath in age, flattened above, evenly pubescent. Inflorescences racemose, arising in the axils of a pair of leaves near the branch tips; (1–)2(–3)-flowered; peduncles terete, green, evenly pubescent, ca. 8 mm long; pedicels resembling the peduncles but slightly thinner, mostly 12–15 mm long, expanded slightly upward, hardly accrescent. Flowers all perfect, buds turbinoid, becoming flat-topped, prominently 5-angled; calyx green, 10–15 mm across, membranaceous, lobed about halfway, the lobes deltoid-obtuse, soon porrect, keeled, minutely puberulent inside, villous outside; corolla rotate, yellowish white with green maculae forming a star occupying the central ¼–½ of the limb, pentagonal, 25 mm across, pubescent on the veins outside and near the center within, ciliate, the costae evident, fine, elevated outside, the lobes deltoid-acute; sta-

