Euphorbia radians (EUPHORBIACEAE)  
a new record from Veracruz, Mexico

Euphorbia radians is reported from Veracruz state, in eastern Mexico for the first time. It is an interesting Mexican geophytic spurge, but poorly known among horticulturists. We provide images of the plant as well data on its general geographic distribution and phenology in this paper.

INTRODUCTION

Euphorbia L. is one of the largest genera of flowering plants, with ca. 2,000 species distributed in the tropical and temperate zones of the world (Rzedowski & Rzedowski, 1985, 2001). Many African and Madagascan species have succulent stems and resemble cacti, and so are cultivated by hobbyists in many countries for their ornamental qualities. Euphorbia pulcherrima Willd., the Poinsettia, is a Mexican shrub which appears in many nurseries and houses during Christmas times as a symbol of the season (Rzedowski & Rzedowski, 1985) due to its showy and colourful bracts.


The aim of this paper is to draw the attention of Euphorbia growers around the world to Euphorbia radians, a small, but nonetheless showy plant, worthy of wider cultivation (Fig. 1).

RESULTS

During numerous field trips carried out by the authors at the semiarid region of Acultzingo in Veracruz during the years 2010–2014, we found several new records for the flora of the state. These were reported by Rivera et al. (2015) in a paper that came out in Spanish.

TAXONOMY

Euphorbia radians Benth.
Synonymy: Poinsettia radians (Benth.) Kl. & Garcke (Rzedowski & Rzedowski, 2001).

Popular names: two common names are used at the national level “chichimecapatli” and “yamancapatli” (Martínez 1969).

Locally in the Acultzingo region of Veracruz, it is known as “estrella de tierra” (earth stars) “camote de...