

Cryptantha gypsites Johnston, sp. nov.

Herba multicaulis fortasse perennis 10–15 cm. alta; caulibus pluribus decumbentibus dichotome ramosis graciliter villosa-hispidulis (pilis laxe antrorseque adpressis 0.3–1.0 mm. longis); foliis spathulato-oblanco-latis 10–40 mm. longis infra apicem 1–4 mm. latis, subtus hispidulis (pilis gracilimibasi discoidea erumpentibus erectis vel adpressis 0.3–1.0 mm. longis), supra sparse hispidulis vel subglabris, margine sparse ciliolatis; inflorescentia terminali saepe furcata; cymis maturitate unilateralibus racemiformibus saepe 4–6 cm. longis abundanter bracteatis; bracteis lanceolatis sessilibus eis inferioribus quam floribus proximatis fere duplo longioribus; calyce ad anthesin 2–2.5 mm. longo subsessili; calyce fructifero ovato 2.5–3.5 mm. longo tardissime deciduo hispidulo pilis ad 1 mm. longis ascendentibus vestito, lobis anguste lanceolatis conniventibus; corolla alba 3–4 mm. longa; limbo 4–5 mm. diametro; lobis rotundis 1.6–2.0 mm. longis 1.4–1.7

mm. latis; tubo ad 1.5 mm. longo a basi 0.7–0.8 mm. diametro sursum gradatim ampliato apice 1.2–1.4 mm. diametro; faucibus subapertis appendiculas invaginatas flavas puberulentas trapeziformes 0.2 mm. altas gerentibus; annulo evidente 5-lobato; antheris ellipticis 0.5–0.6 mm. longis supra medium tubi corollae gestis; nuculis homomorphis 0.8–1.2 mm. longis 0.7–0.9 mm. latis 0.3–0.4 mm. crassis, dorse ovatis convexis evidenter pallideque verrucosis marginem angulatum paulo incrassatum pallidum circumdatis, ventre obtusis; nuculo abaxillari subpersistenti; sulco nuculae de apice deorsum gradatim dilatato vel solum infra medium aperto nullo modo excavato; gynobasi anguste pyramidalis ca. 1 mm. alta nuculis brevioris basi 0.4–0.5 mm. crassa; stylo ad anthesin basis antherarum attingente, maturitate nuculas 0.5–0.7 mm. longe superante.

MEXICO: Nuevo Leon, on gypsum in open pine woods, 8 mi. south of Galeana, July 20, 1958, *D. S. Correll & I. M. Johnston 19872* (type, LL); open pine slope 4 mi. south of Pabillo, July 20, 1958, *Correll & Johnston 19901* (LL); gypsum flat in valley 3 mi. east of Highway No. 57 on road to Galeana, July 21, 1958, *Correll & Johnston 19966* (LL).

A very well marked species known only from the highlands of southern Nuevo Leon where it is apparently confined to gypsum or gypseous soils. In the field it was mistaken for a form of *C. albida* (HBK.) Johnston, the species with which it is probably most closely related. From *C. albida*, however, it is readily distinguished by its low spreading habit, loose dichotomous branching, larger corollas, long protruding style that much surpasses the nutlets, and dorsiventrally compressed nutlets with thickened pale angulate margins and non-excavate attachment-scar. Like *C. albida*, the present species appears to be a summer-flowering and not a spring-flowering plant. The specimens available have remnants of evidently crowded basal leaves. Some of the lowermost stems appear to be persisting portions of the stems of the season previous. The root also seems to be more than that of a seasonal annual and possibly may be that of a short-lived perennial.