

By: Gutierrez, et al.

S.R. No. 402

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Two staff members at Big Bend National Park, Deb
2 Manley and Cathy Hoyt, have captivated the botanical world with
3 their discovery of a new plant species, the "wooly devil"; and

4 WHEREAS, Ms. Manley, a volunteer in the park's botany
5 program, and Ms. Hoyt, a supervisory interpretive park ranger,
6 first encountered the plant while on a hike in the park's
7 backcountry in March 2024; nestled among the desert rocks, the
8 plant featured fuzzy foliage and narrow, maroon-colored petals that
9 were unlike any species they had seen before; the discovery
10 elicited tremendous interest among botanists, and park staff were
11 eventually joined by representatives from California Academy of
12 Sciences, Sul Ross State University, and Centro Interdisciplinario
13 de Investigación para el Desarrollo Integral Regional in studying
14 and classifying the species; and

15 WHEREAS, Researchers dubbed the plant the "wooly devil" in
16 reference to its hairy leaves and hornlike florets, and it was
17 designated with the official name *Ovicula biradiata* in a new genus
18 within the daisy family; diminutive in size, the wooly devil ranges
19 from half an inch to three inches across, and it has been identified
20 in just three small sections in Big Bend's portion of the Chihuahuan
21 Desert; as an annual plant that blooms after desert rains, it has
22 likely struggled to survive in the midst of prolonged droughts in
23 its habitat, making its discovery all the more remarkable to the
24 scientific community; and

1 WHEREAS, Uncovering not only a new species but an entirely
2 new plant genus is a rare and exciting scientific breakthrough, and
3 Deb Manley and Cathy Hoyt may indeed take pride in the role they
4 played in bringing this tiny marvel to light and furthering the
5 study of the fascinating biodiversity found within Big Bend
6 National Park; now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 89th Texas Legislature
8 hereby commemorate the discovery of a new plant species at Big Bend
9 National Park and commend Deb Manley and Cathy Hoyt for their vital
10 contribution to this undertaking.