FLAVONOID PIGMENTS IN FLOWER AND LEAF OF THE GENUS *LINARIA* (SCROPHULARIACEAE)*

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Abstract—The pigments bracteatin-6-glucoside, aureusidin-6-glucoside, cyanidin-3-glucoside, aucubin and several cinnamic acids have been identified from *Linaria* flowers. From leaves of *Linaria* spp., the following pigments have been characterized: luteolin-7-glucoside, luteolin-7-diglucoside, an unidentified glycoside of eriodictyol, four glycosides of acacetin, and a glycoside of a scutellarein methyl ether. The study of flavonoids from leaves of twelve species of *Linaria* has proved to be useful for solving taxonomic problems at the specific and infraspecific level, particularly in such taxa as *L. tristis*, *L. aeruginea* and *L. nevadensis*.

Resumen—A partir de flores de *Linaria* se han identificado los siguientes pigmentos: bracteatín-6-glucosa, aureusidín-6-glucosa, cianidín-3-glucosa y cianidín-3-rutinosa, así como aucubina y varios ácidos cinámicos. A partir de hojas de varias especies de este género se han aislado los pigmentos: luteolín-7-glucosa, luteolín-7-diglucosa, un glicósido no identificado del eriodictiol, cuatro glicósidos de la acacetina y un glicósido de la escutelareina. El estudio de flavonoides en hojas de 12 especies de *Linaria* ha resultado muy util para ayudar a resolver varios problemas taxonómicos a nivel específico e infraespecífico en taxa tales como *L. tristis, L. aeruginea* y *L. nevadensis*.

INTRODUCTION

As a part of an experimental taxonomic study on the genus Linaria (Scrophulariaceae), a survey has been made of the pigments present in the genus. This study was undertaken in an attempt to discover further characters which might correlate with the morphology of the taxa, and also because of the intrinsic interest in the nature of flower pigmentation, which is so striking and variable in this genus.

RESULTS

Flower Pigments

Using two-dimensional chromatography, six aurones, seventeen flavones, two flavonols and two anthocyanins were detected.

Two of the aurones have been identified as aureusidin-6-glucoside and bracteatin-6-glucoside. These two pigments have the colour reactions of aurones, and the R_f s agree with those given by Harborne for these two pigments extracted from flowers of Antirrhinum majus. Harborne found both pigments in flowers of Linaria maroccana and subsequently also in flowers of L. vulgaris. In the present study, these pigments have been found in the

A Part II in the series "Experimental Taxonomy of Linaria"; for part I, see B. VALDES, Trab. Depart. Bot. Fisiol. Veg. Madrid 1: 131-142 (1969).

¹ J. B. HARBORNE, J. Chromatog. 2, 581 (1959).

² J. B. HARBORNE, *Phytochem.* 2, 327 (1963).

³ J. B. HARBORNE, *Phytochem.* 5, 111 (1966).

J. B. HARBORNE, Comparative Biochemistry of the Flavonoids, Academic Press, London and New York (1967).

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following taxa: L. vulgaris (L10, L14, L15), L. supina (L11, L20, L24), L. anticaria (L4), L. genistifolia (L6), L. dalmatica (L25), L. hirta (L7), L. spartea (L9) and L. viscosa (L2). In L. reflexa (L16) and L. incarnata (L13), aureusidin-6-glucoside is absent and only traces of bracteatin-6-glucoside have been detected (see Table 3).

Two anthocyanins, cyanidin-3-glucoside and cyanidin-3-rutinoside, were isolated from L. reticulata var. aureopurpurea (L17) and L. tristis (L18) and identified by co-chromatography with authentic pigments. Cyanidin-3-rutinoside occurs in L. tristis (L18) and L. reticulata var. aureopurpurea (L17), and traces of it have been detected in chromatograms of L. anticaria (L4), L. alpina (L12), L. triphylla (L21), L. repens (L8, L19) and L. nivea (L5). Cyanidin-3-glucoside has been detected in L. tristis (L18), L. anticaria (L4), L. alpina (L12), L. repens (L3, L8, L19, L23), L. nivea (L5) and traces in L. triphylla (L21) (see Table 3).

Aucubin occurs in flowers and leaves of all the species studied. It appears as dark spots visible in daylight in chromatograms exposed to the light for several hours. Several cinnamic acids have been observed in chromatograms of extracts from *Linaria* flowers. These appear as blue or blue-green spots in u.v. light. The presence of cinnamic acids in *Linaria* was earlier reported by Harborne.⁵

Intraspecific Variation in Flower Colour

In a sample of L. repens (L3), specimens with cream flowers appeared among specimens with normal pale-violet flowers. It has been found that specimens with pale-violet flowers have acacetin glycosides in the leaves and cyanidin-3-glucoside and an unidentified flavone (R_f 0.48 in BAW) as main pigments in the flowers. Specimens with cream flowers do not have acacetin derivatives in the leaves, nor the flavone with R_f 0.48 in BAW in flowers, and only have traces of cyanidin-3-glucoside; however, they have bracteatin-6-glucoside in flowers, which is absent in the normal pale-violet flowers.

From hybridization experiments which were undertaken with these plants, it appears that variation in flower colour is controlled by two pairs of factors, and thus, according to the pigment pattern, these must control several different reactions.

Leaf Pigments

In *Linaria*, flowers are very rich in pigments and, as a consequence, their use for taxonomical purposes is complicated. In the present limited study, the leaves, with their simpler pigmentation patterns, have been found of greater value.

In leaves, flavonoids, aucubin, orobanchin and several other cinnamic acid derivatives have been found. Cyanidin-3-glucoside and cyanidin-3-rutinoside have been detected only in *L. glauca* (H13) and *L. saturejoides* (H22, H23). Aurones have not been detected in leaves.

A number of the leaf pigments were isolated and studied in more detail. Following extraction from leaves of L. spartea (L9), luteolin-7-glucoside and luteolin-7-diglucoside were identified by co-chromatography with authentic samples. In Table 1, the colour reactions, R_f s and spectral maxima are given. In addition to occurring in five samples of L. spartea (L9, H24, H25, H26, H27), these luteolin derivatives occur in L. heterophylla subsp. tartessiana (H14, H15), and L. viscosa var. flava (H40, H41); both pigments are absent from L. viscosa var. viscosa (H37, H38, H39).

A glycoside isolated from L. spartea (L9) gave an aglycone which co-chromatographed with an authentic sample of eriodictyol without separation. It occurs in L. spartea (L9, H24, H25, H26, H27), L. heterophylla subsp. tartessiana (H14, H15) and L. viscosa var. flava

⁵ J. B. HARBORNE, Z. Naturforsch. 21, 604 (1966).

	Co	R_f values (×100) in									
Components	In visible	In u.v.	U.v. + NH ₃	BAW	Forestal	BEW	H ₂ O	15% AcOH			
Luteolin (aglycone)	Colourless	Dark	Yellow	77	47						
Luteolin-7-glucoside	Colourless	Yellow	Bright yellow	36		37	1	10			
Luteolin-7-diglucoside	Colourless	Yellow	Bright yellow	30		35	5	26			
Eriodictyol glycoside	Colourless	Bluish	Blue-green	50	_	50	35	58			
						$\Delta\lambda$ in					
	λ_{max} in EtOH (nm)			EtOH-NaOAc			EtOH-H ₃ BO ₃				
Components	Band I]	Band II	Band I	Banc	n '	Band I	Band II			
Luteolin (aglycone)	256	3	351	+15	+3-	4	+6	+25			
Luteolin-7-glucoside	257	3	352	0	0	-	+4	+13			
Luteolin-7-diglucoside	257	3	352	0	Ō		+5	+12			
Eriodictyol glycoside	228	_	291 325 (infl.)		+36	0	_	0			

TABLE 1. PROPERTIES OF Linaria FLAVONES

(H40, H41), but is absent in L. viscosa var. viscosa (H37, H38, H39). The colour reactions, R_f and spectral values of this eriodictyol glycoside are given in Table 1.

Four unidentified glycosides of acacetin have been extracted from L. tristis (L27) and L. repens (L1). Two of these (27F1 and L1F1)* have yielded, after hydrolysis, acacetin, glucose and rhamnose; a third (27F2)* yielded acacetin and glucose; insufficient quantity of the fourth pigment (L1F2)* was available to permit a study of the sugars, but it also yielded acacetin after hydrolysis. The colour reactions, R_f and spectral values of these four glycosides and their aglycone are listed in Table 2.

According to Hattori, 6 seven acacetin glycosides are known, three of which are rutinosides, which can be separated by their physicochemical properties, but since only the spectral values of linarin and acaciin are known, 4 the four pigments isolated in the present study could not be identified. However, comparison (Table 2) with an authentic sample of linarin showed that none is identical with this substance. It has been observed that, with the exception of sample L10 of L. vulgaris with yellow flowers, acacetin derivatives only occur in leaves of those species the flowers of which contain anthocyanins.

Orobanchin, a complex ester of caffeic acid, was isolated from *L. spartea* (L9) and identified by comparison with an authentic sample. Harborne⁵ found this pigment in *Digitalis* (Scrophulariaceae); in the present work, it was found in almost all the samples of *Linaria* studied.

Finally, a flavone has been isolated from *L. aeruginea* (L26) which yields, on hydrolysis, an aglycone, probably a scutellarein monomethyl ether, and glucose and rhamnose as sugars. The spectral values of this glycoside (λ_{max} 283 and 330; $\Delta\lambda$ in NaOEt, +9 (band I) and +30 (band II); $\Delta\lambda$ in AlCl₃, +14 and +17; $\Delta\lambda$ in NaOAc, -6 and -5; $\Delta\lambda$ in H₃BO₃, +9 and -5) are typical of scutellarein derivatives. The colour reactions of the glycoside are also those effected for scutellarein glycosides (e.g. dark in u.v. light); its R_f s were 0.5 in BAW,

^{* 27}F1 and 27F2, flavones isolated from L. tristis (L27); L1F1 and L1F2, flavones isolated from L. repens (L1).

⁶ S. HATTORI, in *The Chemistry of Flavonoid Compounds* (edited by T. A. GEISSMAN), p. 317, Pergamon Press, Oxford (1962).

TABLE 2. PROPERTIES OF ACACETIN GLYCOSIDES IN Linaria

	Colour reactions					R_f values (×100) in						
Glycosides*	In visible	ln :	u.v.	U.v. + NF	I, BAV	V BEW	5%	AcOH	15% AcO	н н,о		
27 F ₁					68	63	•	70	66	54		
27 F ₂					50	47	4	12				
L_iF_i	Pale yello	w Dark g	reen D	ark green	65			51	49	36		
L_1F_2					48	54	3	38		23		
Linarin)					43		-		22	7		
						Δλ	in					
	λ _{max} in EtOH (nm) NaOEt			Al	AlCl ₃		NaOAc		ВОз			
Glycosides	Band I	Band II	Band I	Band II	Band I	Band II	Band I	Band II	Band I	Band II		
27 F ₁	275	330	+22	+50	+23	+11	0	0	0	0		
L_1F_1	275	330	+22	+50		_	0	0	0	0		
L_1F_2	275	330					0	0	0	0		
Linarin	270	330					0	5	0	0		

^{* 27} F_1 and 27 F_2 , isolated from L. tristis (L27); L_1F_1 , isolated from L. repens (L₁). All gave acacetin on hydrolysis, which had R_1 s 92 in BAW, 90 in Forestal and 95 in PhOH and a dark colour in u.v. changing to a slightly lighter colour with NH₃.

0.54 in BEW and 0.28 in 5 per cent HOAc. The aglycone had almost identical spectral properties to scutellarein, but slightly higher R_f values in most solvents (R_f s 0.75 in BEW, 0.75 in Forestal and 0.84 in PhOH). The occurrence of this pigment is of systematic significance since it is present in all the samples of L. aeruginea studied (H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6)

TABLE 3. DISTRIBUTION OF FLOWER PIGMENTS IN Linaria SPECIES

	Flower pigments							
Таха	Bracteatin- 6-glucoside	Aureusin	Cyanidin- 3-glucoside	Cyanidin- 3-rutinoside	Aucubin			
L. vulgaris	+	+	-	_	+			
L. supina	+	+	_	_	+			
L. anticaria	+	+	+	tr	+			
L. genistifolia	+	+	_	→	+			
L. dalmatica	+	+	_	-	+			
L. hirta	+	+	-	_	+			
L. spartea	+	+	_	_	+			
L. viscosa	+	-1-	-	-	+			
L. reflexa	tr	_	n.d.	n.d.	+			
L. incarnata	tr	_	n.d.	n.d.	+			
L. reticulata vax. aureopurpurea		+	_	+	+			
L. tristis	+	+	+	+	+			
L. alpina	n.d.	n.d.	+	tr	+			
L. triphylla	n.d.	n.d.	tr	tr	+			
L. repens	+ *	-	+ tr *	tr	+			
L, nivea	n.d.	n.d.	+	tr	+			

tr = trace; n.d. = not determined; * = variable (see text).

^{- =} not determined.

Taxa	Leaf pigments									
	Cyanidin- 3-glucoside	Cyanidin- 3-rutinoside		Luteolin-7- diglucoside			Aucubin			
L. glauca	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.			
L. saturejoides	+	+	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.			
L. spartea	-	-	+	+	+	_	+			
L. heterophylla subsp.										
tartessiana	_	_	+	+	+	_	+			
L. viscosa var. viscosa	_	-	-		_	_	+			
L. viscosa var. flava	_	_	+	+	+	_	+			
L. tristis	_	_	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	+	+			
L. aeruginea*	_	_	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	+	+			
L. nevadensis*	-	_	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	+	+			

TABLE 4. DISTRIBUTION OF LEAF PIGMENTS IN Linaria SPECIES

n.d. = not determined; * scutellarein derivative only detected in these species.

as well as in all the samples of L. nevadensis (H19, H20, H21), but it is absent in all the samples studied of L. tristis (H28, H29, H30, H31, H32, H33, H34, H35, H36) (see Table 4).

TAXONOMIC INTERPRETATIONS

In Linaria, yellow shades of flowers are determined by the presence in the cell vacuoles of aurones, modified by the presence of several other flavonoids and cinnamic acids. Violet, purple, brown and white shades in flowers are determined by the presence of two anthocyanins: cyanidin-3-glucoside and cyanidin-3-rutinoside, these being modified by pH, several flavonoids and cinnamic acids. Linarin is a well-known flavone in the flowers of L. vulgaris but no pigment with the R_f values of linarin has been found in leaf extract of any species studied.

In some cases, the study of flavonoids in leaves has not added any data to strengthen the morphological separation of some species; such is the case of *L. verticillata*, *L. lilacina* and *L. anticaria*. Although these taxa are easily separable by their morphological characters, all the samples studied of these species (see Appendix II) show the same pigment composition.

However, the chemical data obtained from the study of leaf extracts has sometimes proved very useful to solve taxonomic problems. The morphological characters used to separate L. viscosa var. viscosa (with dense inflorescence) from L. spartea (with lax inflorescence) are reinforced by the presence of luteolin-7-glucoside, luteolin-7-diglucoside and a glycoside of eriodictyol in L. spartea, which are all absent from L. viscosa var. viscosa. These three pigments are present, however, in L. viscosa var. flava, and this supports the separation of this variety (with decumbent stems covered by glandular hairs) from L. viscosa var. viscosa (with erect stems and only inflorescence glandular-hairy). On the other hand, the taxon described by Vicioso⁷ as L. heterophylla subsp. tartessiana, also possesses these three pigments, and this reinforces the morphological resemblance of this taxon with L. spartea, to which it should perhaps be more correctly referred.

The separation between L. tristis (with broader flat leaves and bigger flowers with broader tube) and L. aeruginea (with narrower and grooved leaves and flowers with narrower tube) is sometimes very difficult using only morphological characters, but the chromatograms of both species are very distinctive. Similarly, L. nevadensis, which has been considered as

⁷ C. Vicioso, Anal. Inst. Bot. Cavanilles 6 (2), 5 (1946).

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separate species by several authors, and subordinate to *L. supina* by others, must be subordinate to *L. aeruginea*; the morphology of these taxa suggest this affinity and this view is reinforced by the chemical study of several samples of *L. nevadensis*, since the chromatograms are identical to those obtained from *L. aeruginea*.

It has been observed that within the same species, the samples show some differences as far as pigment content is concerned. Such differences are more marked in cultivated samples than in samples of wild origin. Generally, however, such differences affect only pigments of minor importance, and they have not been taken into consideration in the present study. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the two samples of *L. clementei* studied (H11, H12), although very similar morphologically, are quite distinct chemically.

EXPERIMENTAL

Plant Material

Plant material consisted of fresh samples for several species from plants in cultivation at The University of Liverpool Botanic Gardens (Ness, Cheshire), and herbarium material. The former are listed in Appendix I and are preceded by the letter L; the later are listed in Appendix II and are preceded by the letter H. In the text, the reference number of the samples of each species is given in brackets.

Methods

Flavonoids were extracted from flowers or leaves with 70% or 95% ethanol; anthocyanins, with 1% MeOH-HCl. Chromatography was carried out on Whatman No. 1 paper using the solvents and techniques of Harborne. Purification of pigments was carried out on Whatman No. 3 paper using BAW, 15% acetic acid and BEW. Pigments were identified by spectral and chromatographic comparison with authentic markers and by hydrolysis to aglycones and sugars.

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APPENDIX I

Origin of samples grown at the University of Liverpool Botanic Gardens (Ness, Cheshire).

The number and origin of the samples are indicated.

L1.—L. repens (L.) Miller; Jardín Botánico (Madrid). L2.—L. viscosa (L.) Dum.-Courset; Chiclana (Cádiz, Spain), V-1961, Borja & Rodriguez. L3.—L. repens (L.) Miller; Jardín Botánico (Madrid). L4.—L. anticaria Boiss. & Reut. var. angustifolia Boiss. & Reut.; Priego (Córdoba, Spain): Sierra Halconera, VI-1960, Borja. L5.—L. nivea Boiss. & Reut.; Peñalara (Madrid), VIII-1957, Rivas-Goday & Monasterio. L6.—L. genistifolia (L.) Miller; Jardín Botánico (Madrid). L7.—L. hirta (L.) Moench; Priego (Córdoba, Spain), VI-1960, Borja. L8.—L. repens (L.) Miller; The Botanic Garden of the University (Uppsala). L9.—L. spartea (L.) Hoffmanns. & Link; Aldeanueva de Atienza (Guadalajara, Spain), VIII-1965, Silvestre. L10.—L. vulgaris Miller; Hortus Medicinalis Lodziensis (Ludz, Poland). L11.—L. supina (L.) Chaz.; Jardin Botanique de Dijon (France). L12.—L. alpina (L.) Miller; Jardin Botanique de Dijon (France). L13.—L. incarnata (Vent.) Sprengel; The University Botanic Garden (St. Andrews, Scotland). L14.—L. vulgaris Miller; Institutum Plantarum Medicinalium (Budapest, Hungary). L15.—L. vulgaris Miller.* L16.—L. reflexa (L.) Desf.* L17.—L. reticulata Desf. var. aureopurpurea.* L18.—L. tristis (L.) Miller.* L19.—L. repens

^{*}Hortus botanicus hauniensis (Copenhagen).

(L.) Miller.* L20.—L. supina (L.) Chaz.* L21.—L. triphylla (L.) Miller.* L23.—L. repens (L.) Miller.† L24.—L. supina (L.) Chaz.† L25.—L. dalmatica (L.) Miller.† L26.—L. aeruginea (Gouan) Cav.; El Escorial (Madrid, Spain), VI-1966, Getliffe, Gilbert & Valdés. L27.—L. tristis (L.) Miller; Montes de Tolox (Málaga, Spain), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés.

APPENDIX II

Origin of herbarium material sampled for flavonoid studies. The name of the species, the number of the sample, locality, date of collection and collectors are indicated. All the localities are Spanish.

- L. aeruginea (Gouan) Cav.: H1, El Escorial (Madrid), VI-1966, Getliffe, Gilbert & Valdés;
 H2, Beas de Segura (Jaén), VI-1954, Galiano; H3, Calamocha (Teruel), VIII-1951, Galiano;
 H4, Sierra Nevada (Granada): Las Vívoras, VI-1966, Getliffe & Valdés; H5, Sierra Nevada (Granada): between Peñones de San Francisco and Dornajo, VI-1966, Getliffe & Valdés;
 H6, Sierra Nevada (Granada): Monte Dornajo, VI-1966, Getliffe & Valdés.
- L. anticaria Boiss. & Reut.: H7, Torcal de Antequera (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H8, Torcal de Antequera (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H9, Sierra Gorda (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H10, Sierra de Alhama (Granada), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés.
- L. clementei Haens. ex Boiss.: H11, between Coin and Ojén (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H12, Sierra de Carratraca (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés.
- L. glauca (L.) Chaz.: H13, Aranjuez (Madrid), VI-1966, Getliffe, Gilbert & Valdés.
- L. heterophylla Desf., subsp. tartessiana C. Vicioso: H14 and H15, Palos de Moguer (Huelva), II-1966, Novo.
- L. lilacina Lange: H16, Sierra de Cazorla (Jaén): Quesada, V-1962, Kjellqvist & Löve; H17, Sierra de Cazorla (Jaén): El Chorro, V-1966, Kjellqvist & Löve; H18, Sierra de la Cabrilla (Jaén), VI-1948, Heywood.
- L. nevadensis Boiss. & Reut.: H19, Sierra Nevada (Granada): Dehesa de San Jerónimo, VI-1966, Getliffe & Valdés; H20, Sierra Nevada (Granada): Hoya de la Mora, VI-1966, Getliffe & Valdés; H21, Sierra Nevada (Granada): Peñones de San Francisco, VI-1966, Getliffe & Valdés.
- L. saturejoides Boiss.: H22, Sierra de Almijara (Granada): Sierra del Chaparral, V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H23, Sierra de Almijara (Málaga): Montes de Cómpeta, V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés.
- L. spartea (L.) Hoffmanns. & Link: H24, El Escorial (Madrid), VI-1966, Getliffe, Gilbert & Valdés; H25, between Madrid and Arenas de San Pedro (Madrid), VI-1966, Getliffe, Gilbert & Valdés; H26 and H27, between Arenas de San Pedro and Candeleda (Avila), VI-1966, Getliffe, Gilbert & Valdés.
- L. tristis (L.) Miller: H28, Gibraltar, IV-1965, Gilbert & D. Wood; H29, Montes de Tolox (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H30, Sierra Bermeja (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H31, Sierra de Grazalema (Cádiz): Cerro de San Cristobal, V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H32, between Ronda and San Pedro de Alcántara (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H33, Sierra Tejeda (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés;

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- H35, Sierra de Grazalema (Cádiz), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H36, Sierra Bermeja (Málaga), V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés.
- L. viscosa (L.) Dum.-Courset var. viscosa: H37, between Grazalema and Ronda (Cádiz),
 V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H38, Sierra Nevada (Granada): Peñones de San Francisco
 VI-1966, Getliffe & Valdés; H39, Sierra Nevada (Granada): Hoya de la Mora, VI-1966,
 Getliffe & Valdés.
- L. viscosa (L.) Dum.-Courset var. flava (Boiss.): H40, Sierra de Almijara (Málaga): Montes de Cómpeta, V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés; H41, Sierra de Almijara (Granada): Sierra del Chaparral, V-1966, Getliffe, Novo & Valdés.