

The senior author has reviewed the taxonomic status of *Hesperaloe funifera* as recognized by Starr (1997) in his revision of the genus. Starr recognized two subspecies under the fabric of *H. funifera*: subsp. *funifera* and subsp. *chiangii*. Of these I would elevate to specific rank his *Hesperaloe funifera* subsp. *chiangii*, as follows: ***Hesperaloe chiangii*** (G. D. Starr) B. L. Turner, stat. nov. Based upon *Hesperaloe funifera* subsp. *chiangii* G. D. Starr, *Madroño* 44: 289. 1997.

As noted by Starr (1997, p. 282), the late Engard, who was deeply involved in a revisionary study of *Hesperaloe* at the time of his death, intended to describe this taxon as a species. Starr, however, thought the plants concerned better treated as a subspecies of *H. funifera*. I disagree with this assessment. *Hesperaloe chiangii* is a geographically isolated, well marked cohort of *H. funifera* (cf. distribution maps, Starr 1997), showing little sign of morphological intergradation with the latter, to judge from my examination of Mexican materials (LL, TEX) and by the key provided by Starr to distinguish between the two. Indeed, the morphological differences between *H. funifera* and *H. chiangii*, in my opinion, are as marked as those that separate *H. parviflora* and *H. engelmannii*. Such was apparently the opinion of Engard, as noted in the above.