



## New species honors Dr. Hartman

A new treatment of the genus *Heterotheca* (Goldenaster, Asteraceae) recognizes a new, morphologically distinct species as *Heterotheca hartmanii*. The new species is restricted in distribution to north-central Colorado, west of the continental divide, and adjacent Carbon Co., Wyoming. It is distinguished from other members of *Heterotheca* sect. *Chrysanthe* by its geographic location, the prominent bracts that surround the flower head, and other features (Nesom, 2020).



Given the range of the species, it comes as no surprise that many of the specimens that the author examined and eventually included in *H. hartmanii* are housed in the Rocky Mountain Herbarium. Several students unknowingly collected *H. hartmanii*, as did Ron Hartman himself, and current Curator, Burrell “Ernie” Nelson. In fact, of the 72 specimens examined and included in the new taxon, 49 are RM specimens! Fittingly, a specimen from Wyoming was chosen to be the type: Kastning 792 (RM 569699). Nancy Kastning, former Hartman student and alumna of the UW floristics program, collected the plant in the Sierra Madres of Carbon Co. in 1988.

Nesom’s treatment of *Heterotheca* constitutes a major overhaul of the genus, more than doubling the number of recognized species, and it may take some time for the new, proposed taxonomy to be considered and adopted (or not) at the RM. In the meantime, if you would like to see Hartman’s goldenaster in bloom, it can be found in flower June to September, among “[s]pruce, spruce-fir, aspen, lodgepole pine, sagebrush, Gambel’s oak, pinyon-juniper, meadows, roadsides, cliffs, ridges, talus, rocky hillsides, volcanic outcrops, roadsides; (6900–)8200–10,100 ft” (Nesom, pg 222).

Congratulations to “Dr. Ronald L. Hartman, 1945-2018, who knew while he was  
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still with us that this species would be named for him” (Nesom, pg 222).

### Reference

[Nesom, G.L. 2020. Taxonomic summary of \*Heterotheca\* \(Asteraceae: Astereae\): Sect. \*Chrysanthe\*. \*Phytoneuron\* 2020-68: 1–359 \[in 5 parts: 1–74; 75–134; 135-216; 217–319; 320–359\]. Published 12 October 2020.](#)

## RM Faces: Greg Brown



Dr. Greg Brown has been a botanist since high school, when he realized that there were aspects in working with animals that he didn’t like. In contrast, projects involving plants were enjoyable and basically unlimited in terms of experiments with live organisms. Greg majored in botany in college, which further strengthened his interest in plants. He joined the UW faculty in 1985 as a systematic botanist, and has been associated with the RM ever since. In 2015, when Dr. Hartman retired, Greg became the interim Director.

Greg really likes the size and quality of the collections, but also other, often overlooked aspects, such as good natural lighting, and the absence of needed chemical pest control thanks to our dry environment.

And we like Greg’s leadership—Thank you, Greg!



### From the RM and Biodiversity Institute: Plants of Wyoming Flashcards

Each card features a photo by Robert Dorn, an image of a specimen from the RM collection, and information on the taxonomy, history, use and ecological role of the species. Set includes 50, 4 x 6” cards in a case. \$7 plus tax, S&H. Available at [wyobiodiversity.net](http://wyobiodiversity.net).