

PECTIS HUMIFUSA NEW TO THE FLORA OF THE UNITED STATES

During research preparatory to a revision of section *Pectis* of the genus *Pectis* L. (Compositae), a new record for the flora of the United States was discovered. A specimen of *Pectis humifusa* Swartz, a taxon distributed among several islands of the Caribbean region, was found to have been collected in southern Florida. This first mainland record for *P. humifusa* is a significant range extension, since the closest previous collection site is over 900 miles away in the Dominican Republic. The previously known range for this species extends from Tobago north through the Lesser Antilles to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The following are the collection data for this new record: UNITED STATES: Florida, Collier Co., Naples, in white sand along route 41, the Tamiami Trail, 5 mi. SE of town, 24 Mar 1956, J. A. Churchill s.n. (MSC).

Three other species of *Pectis* are known to occur in Florida: *P. leptcephala* (Cass.) Urban, *P. linearifolia* Urban and *P. prostrata* Cav. All are low herbs with yellow, five-rayed heads, as is *P. humifusa*. However, of the three previously known taxa, only *P. prostrata* bears a close resemblance to *P. humifusa*. The two taxa are similar in their prostrate habit, relatively broad leaves (usually more than 2 mm. wide) and very short-peduncled or sessile heads. The two species differ in several respects, however, and are easy to distinguish. Both species tend to root at the nodes, but the tendency is much more developed in *P. humifusa*. The foliage of *P. humifusa* is blue-green and the leaves are mostly 4-12 mm. long and 1.5-4 mm. wide, ranging from oblanceolate to obovate. The leaves of *P. prostrata* are more olive-green, commonly exceed 20 mm. in length and are at most oblanceolate. The heads of *P. humifusa* are more open at anthesis than those of *P. prostrata* and are commonly

campanulate rather than cylindric or urceolate. The involucral bracts of *P. humifusa* are obovate, obtuse, and keeled only part of their length whereas those of *P. prostrata* are usually lanceolate or oblanceolate, acute, and are keeled nearly to the tips. *Pectis humifusa* is a plant of sandy areas, and *P. prostrata* occurs in a variety of habitats and is a common roadside weed in much of Latin America.

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