

## NOTEWORTHY VASCULAR PLANTS FROM LOUISIANA

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Older herbarium records and some recent collections have drawn our attention to fifteen vascular plant species from Louisiana. We record some of these species as new to that state; for the others we confirm their persistence in our flora or expansion of geographical range. We are grateful to a number of specialists, mentioned in the text, who have provided specimen identifications, and to the curators of the following Louisiana herbaria who made their collections available for examination: LSUS, NATC, LTU, NLU, LSU, and LAF. Herbarium abbreviations are taken from P. K. Holmgren and W. Keuken, *Index Herbariorum I* (ed. 6), 1974.

### COMMELINACEAE

MURDANNIA NUDIFLORA (L.) Brenan (*Aneilema nudiflorum* (L.) Kunth)

Subsequent to Thieret's (1966) report of this species in Lafayette Parish, *Murdannia nudiflora* has been found as a lawn weed in East Baton Rouge Parish (Brown 21679, LSU; Allen 1589A, LAF, LSU) and St. Charles Parish (Sundell 2156, NO). A native of Asia, *Murdannia nudiflora* is now naturalized along the Gulf Coast from Texas to Florida and northward to North Carolina (Godfrey & Wooten, 1979). Jones (1976) reported this species from Pearl River and Harrison Counties in Mississippi, while Lelong (1977) recorded it as infrequent in cultivated ground near Mobile, Alabama.

TRADESCANTIA FLUMINENSIS Vell.

*Tradescantia fluminensis* is widely cultivated as a house plant and is escaped in northern Florida (Godfrey & Wooten, 1979). Small (1933) gives its North American range as Florida to North Carolina. We here record this species as new to Louisiana, having observed it as a perennial herb on the Tulane University campus and elsewhere in New Orleans (Sundell 1799, NO). *Tradescantia fluminensis* is common as a weed under cultivated shrubs. This species is also present in Lafayette Parish (J. W. Thieret, pers. comm.).

### MORACEAE

FATOUA VILLOSA (Thunb.) Nakai

Dr. Thieret reported this species as new to Louisiana and North America

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in 1964. His collections were made in Lafayette Parish in 1962, although the species was found as an occasional weed in New Orleans twelve years earlier (*DeWolf, s.n.*, NO). We have seen specimens documenting *Fatoua villosa* as an outdoor plant in Orleans, Jefferson, Iberia, Lafayette, East Baton Rouge, Concordia, and Rapides Parish. It has been found in northern Florida (*Godfrey 70116*, LAF) and near Mobile, Alabama (*Lelong, 1977*). In northern parts of Louisiana, and in other areas of the southeastern United States, *Fatoua* is a weed in greenhouses (*Massey, 1975*).

#### URTICACEAE

##### PILEA MICROPHYLLA (L.) Liebm.

Widely known as a greenhouse weed, *Pilea microphylla* is persistent in outdoor flowerbeds and lawns on the Tulane University campus, New Orleans. Collections of this annual species have been made in 1977 (*Sundell 2027*, NO), 1978 (*Darwin & Sundell 910*, NO), and 1979 (*Thomas et al. 62719*, NLU). One earlier collection (*Cocks, s.n.*, NO), without date but collected before 1927, suggests that *P. microphylla* repeatedly escapes from local greenhouses even if the species cannot survive severe winter temperatures. Small (1933) included three species in his closely circumscribed genus *Pilea*; *P. herniarioides* and *P. microphylla* he thought present in peninsular Florida, but cited the range of *P. serpyllifolia* as Florida and coastal Louisiana. Our collections, with relatively short inflorescences, do not fit Small's description of *P. serpyllifolia*, nor have we seen any specimens so determined in Louisiana herbaria.

#### RANUNCULACEAE

##### RANUNCULUS PLATENSIS Sprengel

Benson (1954) described this species as new to North America based on collections from eastern Texas (*Shinners 18330*, POM, SMU) and Houma (Terrebonne Parish), Louisiana (*Penfound, s.n.*, April 27, 1931, NO). *Ranunculus platensis*, native to South America, is distinct from others of our local *Ranunculi* in having sessile flowers with only three sepals and three petals. Keener (1976) recorded the species as very rare in the coastal plain of Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. We have seen one collection from Mississippi (*Rhodes 14558*, LTU) and many others from southeastern Louisiana, where *R. platensis* is now very common.

Listed below are the Louisiana parishes from which we have seen specimens of this species; the list is chronological, based on earliest date of collection. The pronounced range extension between the years 1964-1968 undoubtedly reflects active field work by Dr. John Thieret and his associates, whose collections are largely responsible for new parish records during that period. However, it is also quite possible that the present species may have spread rapidly throughout southeastern Louisiana after a prolonged period



of establishment following initial introduction. 1931: Terrebonne. 1958: St. Charles. 1960: Lafourche. 1963: Acadia. 1964: St. Mary. 1965: Ascension, Evangeline, Livingston, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa. 1966: Iberville, Rapides, St. Helena, St. Martin. 1968: Assumption. 1970: Jefferson. 1971: Lafayette, Orleans. 1973: Plaquemines. 1974: St. Bernard. (1976: Harrison Co., Mississippi).

#### CRUCIFERAE

##### RORIPPA HETEROPHYLLA (Blume) Williams

Stuckey (1972) gives the American distribution of this species as Central America, West Indies, Pacific Northwest, and Louisiana; Gleason (1952) also reports it as adventive in New Jersey. *Rorippa heterophylla* was earlier attributed to southern Mississippi and Louisiana by Small (in 1913 under the name *Roripa montana*, and in 1933 under the name *Radicula heterophylla*). It is distinct from others of our *Rorippa* species in being apetalous and having longer fruits. We confirm the persistence of *R. heterophylla* in Louisiana, having seen the following collections in Louisiana herbaria. Orleans Parish: *Cocks, s.n.*, Common on damp earth, New Orleans, Oct 1905 (NO); *Sundell 2186*, Tulane University campus, New Orleans, 1 Jun 1980 (NO). Rapides Parish: *Thomas et al. 56617*, LSU- Alexandria at Chambers, 20 Nov 1977 (NLU, NO). Louisiana (without date or further locality): *Penfound, s.n.*, (NO).

#### EUPHORBIACEAE

##### PHYLLANTHUS FRATERNUS Webster

This species was reported as new to the United States by Thieret (1967) after its description as a new species by Webster in 1955. *Phyllanthus fraternus* is evidently native to India and adventive in the American tropics. Thieret based his report on three Louisiana collections, two from Orleans Parish and one from Lafayette Parish. We record here the following addition collections of this species. Orleans Parish: *Ewan, s.n.*, Jul 1976 (NATC, NO); *Sundell 2103*, Nov 1977 (NO), *2104*, Nov 1977 (NO). St. Mary Parish: *Thomas et al. 27119*, Oct 1971 (NLU), *27135*, Oct 1971 (NLU), *27174*, Oct 1971 (NLU). Lafourche Parish: *Pias et al. 4602*, Sep 1979 (LSU). Lafayette Parish: *Thieret 32364*, Sep 1970 (LSU, LTU). East Baton Rouge Parish: *Pias 4468*, Aug 1979 (LSU).

##### CROTON LINDHEIMERIANUS Scheele

A single specimen of the genus *Croton* was collected by R. S. Cocks near Lake Charles (Calcasieu Parish) in September of 1906. In 1960 the specimen (at NO) was identified by Dr. M. C. Johnston as *Croton lindheimerianus*, a species of the south central United States otherwise unknown in Louisiana. The species is distinct from *C. monanthogynus* in having three (rather than two) styles and three (not one) seeds per capsule. However,

the Cocks specimen agrees in most respects with published descriptions of *C. pottsii* and may merit further investigation.

#### ACALYPHA SETOSA A. Rich.

Thieret (1963) added this species to the Louisiana flora based on two of his own collections made in 1962 and 1963. The species is now to be found scattered throughout Louisiana and elsewhere along the Gulf Coast (Lelong, 1977) to Florida (Long & Lakela, 1976). In addition to the specimens cited by Thieret from Lafayette and East Baton Rouge Parish, we list below those others which are in Louisiana herbaria. Plaquemines Parish: Ewan 18005, Dec 1948 (NO). Orleans Parish: Cocks, s.n. (NO); Morrison, s.n., Jun 1921 (NO); Bretting & Ewan 22246, Sep 1974 (NO); Sundell 1573, Nov 1976 (NO), 2000, Jul 1977 (NO), 2077, Oct 1977 (NO); Darwin & Sundell 900, Sep 1978 (NO). Vermillion Parish: Thomas et al. 56543, Nov 1977 (NLU). St. John The Baptist Parish: Thomas & Tycer 37560, Nov 1973 (NLU). Tangipahoa Parish: Thomas 46405, Sep 1975 (NLU). East Feliciana Parish: Thomas et al. 11490, Aug 1968 (NLU), 11496, Aug 1968 (NLU). West Feliciana Parish: Curry, Martin & Allen, s.n., Aug 1972 (NLU). Rapides Parish: Pias 2439, Oct 1977 (NLU); Thomas 61842, Oct 1978 (NLU). Ouachita Parish: Scurria 31, Nov 1973 (NLU). Caddo Parish: MacRoberts 1092, Jul 1974 (LSUS), 1987, Sep 1976 (LSUS).

*Acalypha setosa* is of morphological interest in the unusual dimorphism of its pistillate flowers, bearing typical, tricarpellate, 3-seeded ovaries in the lower portion of the pistillate spike and barrel-shaped ovaries near the apex.

#### VITACEAE

#### CAYRATIA JAPONICA (Thunb.) Gagnep.

This perennial, but herbaceous vine is a native of southeastern Asia. It was reported as new to the United States by Shinnars in 1964 and is now a well established weed in New Orleans, where it is frequently found covering fences and cultivated shrubs. In Louisiana herbaria, we have found numerous collections from Orleans Parish and a few others from St. Charles, St. Tammany, Washington, and East Baton Rouge Parish. We have found no collection older than that cited by Shinnars (*M. K. Rylander* 167, 8 Jul 1963, St. Tammany Parrish, SMU), although the species has been present in New Orleans since 1947 and was locally misidentified as *Ampelopsis megalophylla* (J. A. Ewan, pers. comm.).

#### TILIACEAE

#### CORCHORUS AESTUANS L.

Thieret (1967) recorded this species from Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, and Lafayette Parish. Our survey of Louisiana herbaria confirms the persist-



ence of *Corchorus aestuans* in the state, with additional collections made in Iberia Parish (*Thieret* 16565, Oct 1963, LAF). St. Martin Parish (*Thieret*, s.n., Nov 1967, LAF), and Assumption Parish (*Sundell* 2120, Aug 1978, NLU, NO).

#### CONVOLVULACEAE

##### IPOMOEA × LEUCANTHA Jacq.

This hybrid between *Ipomoea lacunosa* L. and *I. trichocarpa* Ell. probably arose in the southeastern United States and is now a widely distributed weed in northern Latin America, Hawaii, and the Philippines (Austin, 1978), possibly as a seed contaminant in rice. Mr. Andrew McDonald, at the University of Texas, informs us that *I. leucantha* is fairly common in our area (pers. comm.) and indeed the parental species are to be found in our Gulf Coast states. *Ipomoea leucantha* resembles the tropical species *I. triloba* L. but has larger fruits and sepals; it most obviously differs from *I. lacunosa* in its lavender-colored (rarely white) corollas. Our collection (*Sundell* 2161, NO, TEX, USF), identified by Mr. McDonald and by Dr. Daniel Austin, was made from a persistent and vigorous colony on the Mississippi River batture at Audubon Park, New Orleans, 2 Oct 1979.

#### COMPOSITAE

##### SILPHIUM PERFOLIATUM L.

This species, although reported from Louisiana (Small, 1933; Cronquist, 1980), is not common in the state. We have seen specimens only from Caddo Parish (*Erwin* 31 and 293, LTU) and West Feliciana Parish (*Thieret* 27889, LAF; *Darwin & Sundell* 848, NO).

##### RATIBIDA COLUMNIFERA (Nutt.) Woot. & Standl. (*R. columnaris* (Sims) D. Don)

Reported from Louisiana by Thieret (1969), this species is apparently sporadic along roadsides and railroads in the northern and western parishes (Kral, 1966; Cronquist, 1980). We list below collections seen in Louisiana herbaria; all were made after 1964, except the R. S. Cocks specimen in 1908. Calcasieu Parish: *Thieret* 28897 (LAF). Grant Parish: *Thieret* 26669 (LAF); *Allen* 7032 (LAF). Ouachita or Jackson Parish: *Kral* 20349 (LAF, NLU). Bienville Parish: *Moreland* 305 (NLU). Bossier Parish: *Thomas* 51908 (NLU). Caddo Parish: *Cocks* 3502 (NO).

##### PALAFOXIA CALLOSA (Nutt.) T. & G.

Turner and Morris (1976) give the geographical range of this species as northeastern Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri; Cronquist (1980) also mentions populations disjunct in the Black Belt of Mississippi. We report here one Louisiana collection, determined for us by Dr. B. L. Turner: R. S. Cocks, s.n. "Prairies near railroad, Crowley [Acadia Parish],

Apr. 15, 1911" (NO, TEX). The described habitat and the absence of any subsequent Louisiana collections suggest that *Palafoxia callosa* is an occasional waif in our southern parishes and probably without permanent populations.

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