

YELLOW ROOT (XANTHORHIZA SIMPLICISSIMA MARSHALL) RANUNCULACEAE
NEW TO LOUISIANA

by

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During vegetational sampling at Ft. Polk, Louisiana a population of yellow root (Xanthorhiza simplicissima Marshall) was discovered. This is apparently the first record for Louisiana as it was not listed for the state by Keener (1977) or by Thomas and Allen (1982) in their checklist of Louisiana Dicotyledons. The occurrence of yellow root was expected in the state as it does occur in neighboring Mississippi and Texas.

Yellow root was found in a baygall, a local term for the small, sandy-bottomed streams and associated vegetation in pine forests of west-central Louisiana. The most common woody plants in the baygall are Acer rubrum L., Ilex coriacea (Pursh) Chapm., Lyonia lucida (Lam.) K. Koch., Magnolia virginiana Bartr., Nyssa sylvatica Marsh., Persea palustris (Raf.) Sargent, Quercus nigra L., Vaccinium arkansanum Ashe, and Viburnum nudum L. Other woody plants include Cyrilla racemiflora L., Fagus grandifolia Ehrh., Halesia diptera Ell., Quercus alba L., and Vaccinium elliotii Chapm. Ferns are the most common herbaceous plants and include Athyrium felix-femina (L.) Roth var. asplenioides (Michx.) Fern., Lorinseria aerolata (L.) Presl., Osmunda cinnamomea L., Osmunda regalis L. var. spectabilis (Willd.) Gray, and Woodwardia virginica (L.) Smith. Other common herbaceous plants include Carex leptalea Wuhl., Chasmanthium spp., Dichanthelium dichotomum (L.) Gould var. tenue (Muhl.) Gould & Clark, Eupatorium fistulosum Barratt, Juncus trigonocarpus Steud., Rhynchospora mixta Britt. ex Small, Rudbeckia nitida Nutt., and Viola primulifolia L. There are scattered populations of peat moss (Sphagnum spp.) and a liverwort (Pallavicinia leyellii (Hook.) S. Gray) within the baygall. In the open areas, especially along the edges, pitcher plant (Sarracenia alata Wood) bog vegetation is found.

The collection data are: LOUISIANA. Vernon Parish: Baygall of unmarked stream near EOD (Explosive Ordinance Demolition) north of Lookout Road east of Whiskey Chitto Creek on Ft. Polk ca. 5 miles SE of Leesville; Aug 14, 1986; Allen 14295 (Ft. Polk Environmental Herbarium). And, at the same locality: Oct 3, 1986; Thomas and Allen 98050 (NLU). Duplicates are being sent to LAF, LSU, GH, NY, MO, and TENN.

LITERATURE CITED

- Keener, Carl S. 1977. Studies in the Ranunculaceae of the southeastern United States VI. Miscellaneous Genera. *Sida* 7:1-12.
- Thomas, R. D. and C. M. Allen. 1982. A Preliminary Checklist of the Dicotyledons of Louisiana. *Contributions of the Herbarium of Northeast Louisiana University* 3:1-130.



Allen, Charles M. et al. 1987. "Yellow root (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima* Marshall) Ranunculaceae new to Louisiana." *Phytologia* 62(1), 5–6.

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