

THREE SPECIES OF VASCULAR PLANTS NEW TO TEXAS**Jason R. Singhurst**

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ABSTRACT

Alstroemeria pulchella (Liliaceae), *Ctenium aromaticum* (Poaceae), and *Decumaria barbara* (Saxifragaceae) are reported as new to Texas.

KEY WORDS: *Alstroemeria*, *Ctenium*, *Decumaria*, Liliaceae, Poaceae, Saxifragaceae, Texas.

Continued field study on the flora of Texas has resulted in discovery of the following species that are considered as new to the state.

Alstroemeria pulchella L. f. (Liliaceae), lily-of-the Incas, Peruvian lily, or parrot lily, a native of Brazil, is an outdoor ornamental that has become naturalized (sensu Pyšek et al. 2004) in Florida, Alabama,

Mississippi, and Louisiana (Holmes 2002). The species is cited in Texas by Jones et al. (1997) as “[cultivated],” which basically refers to plants that do not escape. This slender and weak stemmed herb has dilated petioles that are twisted so as to invert the leaf.

About 100 plants in bloom were established in front of an abandoned house, which indicates their origin as ornamentals, and onto the roadside. They had spread along the edge of the nearby woods and to the roadside for a distance of about 50 meters from the house. All were growing in very shady areas mostly under large oak (*Quercus* spp.) trees.

There is some uncertainty as to the correct name of this species. Bailey (1949) used the name *A. psittacina* Lehmann for this species, as did Thomas and Allen (1993). We are, however, following the Flora of North America usage.

Voucher specimen: Texas. **Newton Co.:** Roadside of FM 1414, ¼ mi E of int. w/ Hwy 87, 9 Jun 2004, *Keith 717* (BAYLU).

Decumaria barbara L. (Saxifragaceae), wood-vamp, a native of southeastern United States, was located in a seepage slope (poor fen) at the base of Farkleberry Sandhill (a sandhill dominated by *Quercus incana*, *Q. margaretta*, and *Q. hemisphaerica*). The seep contact is below and approximately parallel with the edge of the sandhill and is only about 30 m wide. At the lower end it merges into a wet baygall containing *Cyrilla racemiflora*, *Viburnum nudum*, *V. nitidum*, *Itea virginica*, *Lyonia ligustrina*, *Rhododendron oblongifolium*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *O. regalis*, *Woodwardia areolata*, *Bartonia texana*, *Plantanthera clavellata*, *Sphagnum* sp., *Apteria aphylla*, *Acer rubrum*, *Carex glaucescens*, *Myrica heterophylla*, *Doellingeria sericocarpoides*, *Magnolia virginiana*, and *Nyssa sylvatica*.

About 130 plants, ranging in size from 30–40 cm to about 1 meter, were documented in three separate population clusters. None of the plants has flowered since their discovery in 2002. The species has the same growth characteristics in west-central Louisiana (pers. comm. with Charles Allen). Our determination was confirmed by Edwin

Bridges, who, with the senior author, visited the site in September 2004. *Decumaria* is occasionally placed in the segregate family Hydrangeaceae.

The species was included in Correll and Johnston (1970) on the distinct possibility that it occurs in the state, but with the remark that no specimen was seen. Hatch et al. (1990) listed the species in their checklist of the vascular flora of the state, but with the annotation "Expected in Area 1." (i.e, the pineywoods of east Texas). However, Johnston (1990), in a checklist updating the Manual of the Vascular Plants of Texas deleted the species as part of the flora of the state. He mentioned "I have found no evidence that this species occurs in Texas." The following specimen documents the occurrence of the species in the state.

Voucher specimen: Texas. **Newton Co.:** Temple Inland proposed Sand Hill Cemetery Distinctive Site, jct. of St. Rt. 363 and Big Cow Creek, E 0.4 mi, then N ca. 2.7 mi, 7 Mar 2002, *Singhurst 11,223* (BAYLU).

Ctenium aromaticum (Walter) Alph. Wood (Poaceae), toothache grass, is widely distributed along the lower and mid-Gulf and Atlantic coastal plains from Virginia to western Louisiana (Barkworth 2003). The species is highly fire-adapted and occurs in savannahs, pine flatwoods, and pitcher plant bogs. The species occurred in two small areas (patches); both covering no more than 1000 sq. meters each, in a wetland pine savanna that merges with a low hillside seepage swale. Associated flora included *Sphagnum* spp., *Xyris iridifolia*, *Xyris ambigua*, *Xyris platylepis*, *Rhynchospora gracilentia*, *R. glomerata*, *R. oligantha*, *R. pusilla*, *R. plumosa*, *Andropogon virginicus* var. *glaucus*, *Eriocaulon compressum*, *E. decangulare*, *Toefieldia racemosa*, *Physostegia longisepala*, *Aletris aurea*, and *Lycopodiella alopecuroides*.

The location is essentially continuous with the known Louisiana distribution, where it is reported from similar sites in Allen,

Beauregard, and Vernon parishes (Thomas and Allen, 1993), and indicates that the species should be considered native. The low population and restricted known distribution of the species in Texas make it a candidate for conservation concern.

Voucher specimen: Texas. **Newton Co.**: E side of U.S. Hwy 87, 12 mi. N of jct. of Hwy 87 and I-10 in Orange, 12 May 2003, *Singhurst 13,340* (BAYLU).

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