

NOTE

SAGINA (CARYOPHYLLACEAE) IN ILLINOIS:
AN UPDATE

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The genus *Sagina* L. is circumboreal and was most recently monographed by Crow (1978). Only one species, *S. decumbens*, was noted by Mohlenbrock and Ladd (1978) and Mohlenbrock (1986) from Illinois until *S. procumbens* was reported from the Chicago area (Swink and Wilhelm 1994). Examination of specimens in Illinois herbaria revealed an additional adventive species in the state, *S. japonica*. Also, the occurrence of *S. apetala* in Illinois noted by Crow (1978), seems to have been overlooked by recent workers on the Illinois flora.

KEY TO *SAGINA* SPECIES IN ILLINOIS

- 1. Flower parts in 4s (rarely 5s on the same plant); sepals reflexed in fruit; matted wiry perennials, spreading by offshoots
..... *S. procumbens*
- 1. Flower parts primarily in 5s (rarely 4s on the same plant); sepals erect or appressed in fruit; annuals with erect-ascending (or decumbent) often capillary stems and slender taproots, not strongly tufted, not spreading by offshoots
..... (2)
- 2. Leaves with cilia at base *S. apetala*
- 2. Leaves glabrous at base (3)
- 3. Seeds pale brown, triangular with a dorsal groove; capsules longer than broad; pedicels and sepals glandular or glabrous; leaves not succulent
..... *S. decumbens*
- 3. Seeds dark brown to black, plump, ellipsoid-ovoid, lacking a dorsal groove; capsules globose; pedicels and sepals glandular; leaves succulent *S. japonica*

NOTES ON THE SPECIES

Sagina apetala Ard. This species was first recorded from Illinois (Crow 1978) as follows: Union Co., no date, *Forbes s.n.* (MICH). I have not located duplicates in any of the herbaria I have checked. Crow also cited this European species from New Jersey, Maryland, and Louisiana, as well as Washington, Oregon, and California. Cronquist (Gleason and Cronquist 1991) did not include *S. apetala* in the revised manual, apparently unaware of Crow's records from the *Manual* range.

Sagina decumbens (Sw.) Ohwi. Our only native species was noted from 25 counties by Mohlenbrock and Ladd (1978). The following specimens appear to be additional county records: Effingham Co., Wildcat Hollow NE of Mason, 6 Jun 1967, *Evers 90778* (ILLS); Washington Co., Nashville, 2 Jun 1990, *Shildneck 16361* (ISM).

Sagina japonica (Sw.) Ohwi. The widespread occurrence of this eastern Asian species in the northeastern states was noted by Mitchell and Tucker (1991) and Mitchell (1993). In the Midwest, it has only been reported from northwestern Ohio (Rabeler 1996). The following specimen appears to be the first Illinois record: Sangamon Co., near Oak Ridge Cemetery, damp soil in grass, rare, 21 Sep 1951, *Lola Carter 15667* (ISM). In 1997, I noted this species in Charleston, Coles County in a limited area covering several dozen blocks, between the Eastern Illinois University Campus and the county courthouse approximately one km to the north. Searches of herbaria (noted below) and field work in eastern and central Illinois have not turned up any additional records. Specimens: Coles Co., Charleston, 1049 11th St., 28 May 1997, *Tucker 11273* (EIU); 1400 block of 7th St., 14 Jun 1997, *Tucker 11275* (EIU, ILLS, ISM); 7th St. and Buchanan Ave., 24 Jun 1999, *Tucker 11731* (EIU).

Sagina procumbens L. This native of Europe (Crow 1978) is widely naturalized in the northeastern states. It was first noted in Illinois from the Chicago area by Swink and Wilhelm (1994). The Morton Arboretum has specimens from Cook and Kane counties. The following record suggests it may be more widely distributed: Peoria Co., Peoria, 200 block North Garfield St., growing with moss in brick sidewalk cracks, 15 Jun 1955, *Chase 14252* (EIU; ILL det. R. K. Rabeler, 1993).

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