

R. scandens (L.) Shinnars, comb. nov. *Polygonum scandens* L., Sp. Pl. 1: 364-365. 1753. *Tiniaria scandens* (L.) Small, Fl. S.E. U.S. 382, 1330. 1903. *Bilderdykia scandens* (L.) Greene, Leaf. Bot. Obs. & Crit. 1: 23. 1904.

R. SCANDENS var. ***cristata*** (Engelm. & Gray) Shinnars, comb. nov. *Polygonum cristatum* Engelm. & Gray, Pl. Lindh. 51 (Boston Journ. Nat. Hist. 5: 259). 1845. Type locality, near Industry, Austin Co., Texas. *Tiniaria cristata* (Engelm. & Gray) Small Fl. S.E. U.S. 382, 1330. 1903. *Bilderdykia cristata* (Engelm. & Gray) Greene, Leaf. Bot. Obs. & Crit. 1: 23. 1904. *Polygonum scandens* var. *cristatum* (Engelm. & Gray) Gleason, Phytologia 4: 23. 1952.

R. SCANDENS var. ***dumetorum*** (L.) Shinnars, comb. nov. *Polygonum dumetorum* L., Sp. Pl. (ed. 2) 1: 522. 1762. *Bilderdykia dumetorum* (L.) Dumortier, Florula Belgica p. 18. 1827. *Tiniaria dumetorum* (L.) Opiz, Seznam p. 98. 1852. (Not seen.) *Polygonum scandens* var. *dumetorum* (L.) Gleason, Phytologia 4: 23. 1952.—Lloyd H. Shinnars.

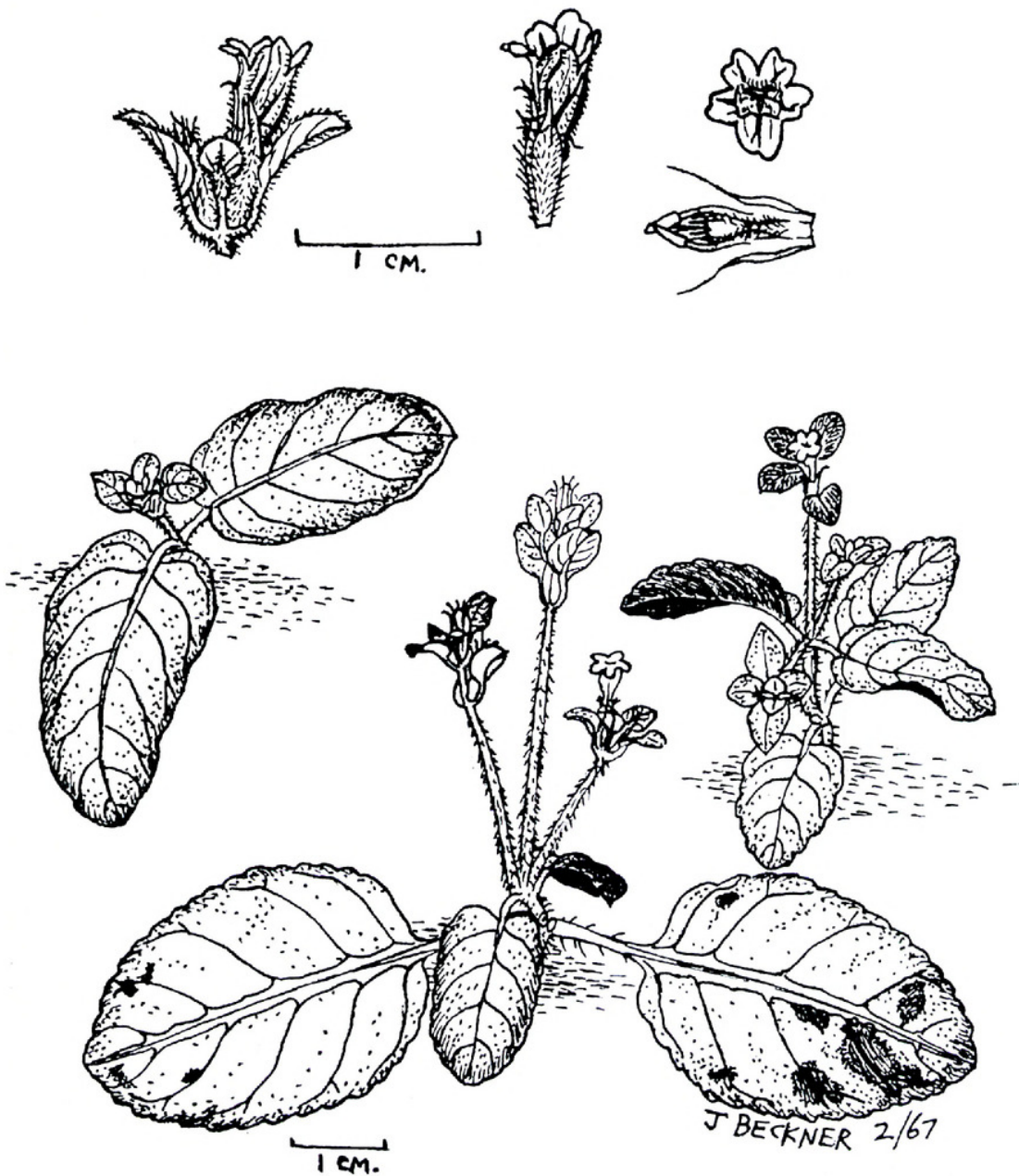
HEMIGRAPHIS REPTANS (ACANTHACEAE), A NEW FLORIDA WEED.—For at least a decade, orchid growers and other greenhouse owners in Florida have noticed a peculiar little weedy plant that invades pots of soil or epiphytic mixes. It sometimes appears on treefern slabs and totems, especially if these are kept moist. The disproportionately long roots and odd leaf colors make the plant noticeable, although it is not really a serious pest.

Graf's Exotica is the only publication where notice has been taken of this plant. In Exotica I, it is shown as *Allophyton evolutum* (J. D. Smith) Pennell, a member of the Scrophulariaceae from Chiapas, Mexico. The plant appears to be in the Acanthaceae, however, and Exotica III has it listed as *Ruellia blumei* Steud. of Java. This name is a nomen nudum.

Recently, Dr. D. B. Ward and I decided to pursue the matter further. A sample of the plants from the University of Florida's Botany Department greenhouse was sent to Dr. Stanwyn G. Shetler, of the Smithsonian Institution. After conferring with Dr. Dieter Wasshausen, of their staff, he kindly reported that this plant is *Hemigraphis reptans* T. Anders., a relative of *Ruellia* in the Acanthaceae.

Hemigraphis reptans was originally described from the Aru Islands off New Guinea. I have seen it in nearly every greenhouse and shadehouse in Florida and the Bahamas that I have visited. The plants have two or more large leaves forming a flat rosette at the base, with very reduced leaves up the scapes. The leaves are of a peculiar dull and discolored green, with deeper green to purplish veins, and purplish undersides. The tiny and inconspicuous flowers are a dirty lilac-white.

Two other species of *Hemigraphis* are often seen as house plants and in greenhouse collections. They are immediately distinguished from *H.*



reptans by possessing elongated stems with all the leaves of more or less uniform size. Both have shiny deep green leaves with red-purple undersides. *H. colorata* Hallier has leaves that are nearly plane. The other cultivated plant is currently known only as *H. 'Exotica'*. It has a denser habit than *H. colorata*, and the leaves are very strongly "crinkled" over their entire surface. Neither of these plants has been seen as an escape, but they can be expected in southern Florida.—John Beckner, University of Florida, Gainesville.



Beckner, John. 1967. "HEMIGRAPHIS REPTANS (ACANTHACEAE), A NEW FLORIDA WEED." *SIDA, contributions to botany* 3, 118–119.

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