

MUSCARI COMOSUM (LILIACEAE) NEW TO TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Muscari comosum (L.) Mill. (Liliaceae) is reported as a non-cultivated persisting population in Parker County, Weatherford, Texas. This species, non-cultivated, is a new record for the state of Texas.

RESUMEN

Muscari comosum (L.) Mill. (Liliaceae) se cita como una población persistente no cultivada en Parker County, Weatherford, Texas. Esta especie, no cultivada, es una nueva cita para el estado de Texas.

Muscari comosum (L.) Mill. (tassel grape-hyacinth, feather hyacinth) has not been reported for Texas by Correll and Johnson (1970), Hatch et al. (1990), Jones et al. (1997), Diggs et al. (1999), or Flora of North America (2002). This species has been reported for several other states in the U.S.: South Carolina (Haldeman 2001), Oregon, Missouri, Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia (Kartesz 1999), and Kentucky (Kartesz 1999; Jones 2005).

A Texas collection of *Muscari comosum* is in the Tracy (TAES) Herbarium, Texas A&M University (Brazos Co. Ness s.n., 10 Apr 1899). The label information states that this was a "single specimen found on campus" (Kruse pers. comm. 2005). No further information was available as to this specimen having been cultivated or existing as a persisting population.

The Texas collection reported here was submitted to the Botanical Research Institute of Texas by a homeowner in Weatherford, Texas (Parker County). The species had not been planted in the yard since the owner's family moved into the home in 1948. The plants were first noted in the yard approximately "20 years ago." This is a non-cultivated persisting population that is currently growing in two groups. The homeowner has observed a gradual increase in the number of plants of *M. comosum* over time. The plants thus appear to be spreading slowly.

Muscari comosum (Fig. 1) is a perennial that regenerates from a bulb and is native to the Mediterranean region (Lopez Alonso & Pascual Reguera 1989). This species has a distinctive flowering scape (raceme), which has fertile, dark purple, urn-shaped flowers that are spaced along the top half of the axis and a tassel of infertile purple flowers at the tip of the axis. Synonyms for this plant include *Hyacinthus comosus* L.



FIG. 1. *Muscari comosum*. Illustration by Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840) (Mallary & Mallary 1986).

Voucher specimen: **TEXAS: Parker Co.:** Weatherford, owner's family have lived in home since 1948, these plants were not seen until 1980/1990- occurring in 2 clumps (15 and 9 scapes); flowers deep purple with tassel at top of stalk, fragrant, *Spear s.n.* 15 Apr 2005. A photograph, dated 1992, of *M. comosum* in homeowner's yard accompanies this specimen.

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