

SIGNIFICANT COLLECTIONS OF LOUISIANA PLANTS.
III. DESOTO PARISH

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A survey of the vascular plants of DeSoto Parish was made from September 1978 to October 1980 (Dixon 1980). Plants representing 135 families, 526 genera and 1234 species and varieties were collected or found in literature or in herbaria. Two state records and several rare Louisiana plants were collected.

The state records are both introductions to the state in the Schrophulariaceae and were not attributed to the state by Pennell (1935) or by later writers. The citations follow:

Chaenorrhinum minus (L.) Lange. Along Kansas City Southern Railroad tracks between La. 175 and Friendship Road in Frierson, Sec. 34, T15N, R13W. R. Dale Thomas and David Dixon. 64384 & 1301. 6 May 1979. Specimens were collected again at the same site in 1980. Thomas collected this species from Jefferson, Ouachita, and Caddo parishes in 1979 and Winn Parish in 1980.

Parentucellia viscosa (L.) Caruel. Roadside of La. 172 at Bushneck Bayou, 2.7 miles east of La. 169 west of Keatchie, Sec. 25, T14N, R16W. R. Dale Thomas & David Dixon 71368 & 3118. 30 May 1980.

Numerous uncommon plants were collected along the creeks in the hills of DeSoto Parish. These include Glinus radiatus (R. & P.) Rohrb., Zizia aurea (L.) W. D. J. Koch., Amsonia glaberrima Woods., Aristolochia tomentosa Sims, Solidago auriculata Shuttlew., Cayaponia quinqueloba (Raf.) Shinn., Forestiera ligustrina (Michx.) Poir., Pentodon pentandrus (Schum. & Thonn.) Vatke., Parietaria pensylvanica Muhl. ex Willd., and Ranunculus carolinianus DC. The northernmost collection of Mikania cordifolia (L.) Willd. ever made in the state was made. Sparganium americanum was collected in one creek.

Although the practice of spraying herbicides on the railroad rights-of-way has probably drastically decreased the populations of many plants, several rare plants still occur along the railroads in the parish. In addition to Chaenorrhinum minus, there are plants of: Eurytaenia texana T. & G., Spermolepis divaricata (Walt.) Raf., Spermolepis echinata (Huds.) Link., Camelina microcarpa Andrzej. ex DC., Thlaspi arvense L., Agrostemma githago L., Vaccaria pyramidata Medicus, Salsola kali L., Boerhaavia coccinea Mill., Cissus incisa (Nutt.) Des. Moul., Solanum dimidiatum Raf., Solanum eleagnifolium Cav., and Solanum rostratum Dun. Scutellaria drummondii Benth., Boerhaavia erecta L., Plantago wrightiana DCne, and Froelichia gracilis are much more common along Louisiana railroads than originally thought. Camelina microcarpa Andrzej. ex DC. has been collected in Bossier and Caddo by Thomas, in Sabine by Carroll, and in St. Charles by Glen Montz. Vaccaria pyramidata Medicus (Saponaria vaccaria (L.) Britt.) was reported from Plaquemines Parish by Langlois in 1979 but had not been collected again (?) until recently collected in Caddo Parish by Thomas.

The cemeteries of the parish were searched for small plants and yielded Ammoselinum butleri (Walt.) Coult. & Rose, Arenaria patula Michx., Trifolium carolinianum Michx., and Phacelia glabra Nutt as well as other more common plants.

Roadbanks yielded Torilis nodosa (Huds.) Link., Artemisia ludoviciana Nutt., Cichorium intybus L., Conyza bonariensis (L.) Cronq., Helianthus grosseserratus Martens, Rudbeckia nitida Nutt. var. texana Perdue, Silphium laciniatum L., Silene gallica L., Astragalus distortus T. & G., Trifolium arvense L., Phacelia hirsuta Nutt., Anemone caroliniana L., Ranunculus arvensis L., Ranunculus marginatus d'Urv., Ranunculus trilobus Desf.

Five uncommon plants were collected in pastures: Acorus calamus L., Carduus nutans L., Silybium marianum (L.) Gaertn., Sisymbrium officinale (L.) Scopoli, and Petalostemum purpureum (Vent.) Rydb.

One healthy plant of Cannabis sativa L. and several populations of Chenopodium botrys L. and Melochia corchorifolia L. were found in waste areas. Melochia is common in south Louisiana but is rare in the northern part of the state.

Several different uncommon plants were collected in the various wooded habitats of the parish. These include: Solidago ulmifolia Muhl., Burmannia biflora L., Symphoricarpus orbiculatus Moench., Stellaria graminea L., Lathyrus venosus Muhl. ex Willd., Trillium gracile J. D. Freeman, Uvularia perfoliata L., Malaxis unifolia Michx., Huchera americana L., and Ribes curvatum Small.

The Ophioglossaceae is well represented in DeSoto Parish with four of the five species of Botrychium and all five of the Ophioglossum species found in the state occurring there. One cemetery has Ophioglossum nudicaule, O. engelmanni, O. crotalophoroides, Botrychium lunarioides, and B. biternatum in it (See (Thomas 1971, 1972). Botrychium dissectum var. obliquum, B. biternatum, B. virginianum and Ophioglossum vulgatum occur in woods and O. petiolatum grows in moss around rural church buildings.

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