

The "Lost" Liliaceae of Kentucky: A Reevaluation¹

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ABSTRACT

Melanthium virginicum L. is reported for Kentucky the first time in more than 130 years. Evidence of the occurrence of *Maianthemum canadense* Desf. in Kentucky is given, and *Lilium philippinense* Baker is reported for the first time as a naturalized escape.

In an earlier article (Browne 1962), species of Liliaceae were discussed which had last been collected in Kentucky 100 years or more ago or had never been collected in the state although their distribution in adjacent states indicated a likelihood of their occurrence in Kentucky. Two species have now been collected, and a third species, not expected in Kentucky, has been discovered.

The acronyms F, GH, MO, NCU, NY, PH, and US that designate the herbaria referred to in this paper follow the usage of Lanjouw and Stafleu (1964) which is now almost universally adopted in reference to herbaria.

It has been largely through the efforts of the second author that these records have been established. All collections are represented by specimens in the Herbarium, Memphis State University. Extra collections have been distributed to NCU and other herbaria as permitted by the availability of material. For the sake of brevity, the names of the collectors are abbreviated RA and ETB followed by their collection number.

Melanthium virginicum.—As reported earlier, the only known records of this species in Kentucky are 2 sheets in NY collected by Dr. C. W. Short in 1842. No other data are known for those collections since the information furnished by Short is minimal. Specimens cited: Calloway County, RA, 2398.

Maianthemum canadense.—Wharton and Barbour (1971) illustrated this species, but gave no distributional data, in the absence of which and without voucher specimens, their illustration cannot be considered adequate to establish a state record. Dr. Barbour (pers. comm.) told both of us on separate occasions where the species was photographed. On the basis of that information, the second author made voucher collections. It is our understanding that *M. canadense* also occurs in an adjacent county, but we have no specimens to support that contention. Specimens cited: Menifee County, RA, 2378.

**Lilium philippinense*.—This species was collected by the first author while on a field trip in eastern Kentucky in 1972. It is thoroughly established in a large field and along roadsides in that locality. From that author's experience with this species in Georgia, it is clear that it must have escaped from some flower garden in the vicinity. It is somewhat surprising that a report of its occurrence in the state has not been made previously, so great is the reproductive potential and widespread its distribution at that locality. Specimens cited: McCreary County, ETB 72H14.1.

This species differs from *L. formosanum* Wallace (*L. philippinense* Baker var. *formosanum* [Wallace] Wilson apud Grove in Wilson 1925) in the shorter pedicels, non-stoloniferous bulbs (Wilson was not sure of this), glabrous stems, shorter ovary, non-angular fruit, pointed (rather than de-

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pressed) fruit summit, and the stamens slightly exceeding the perianth. The perianth at the base is about the diameter of an ordinary wooden pencil in living material, a character used by the late Dr. Samuel L. Emsweller, USDA (pers. comm.), as a separating characteristic. This is considerably greater in *L. formosanum*. The leaves of our specimens are wider (6–10 mm) than reported by Wilson (2–4 mm), but that might vary depending upon environmental conditions. It seems apparent from this study that *L. philippinense* and *L. formosanum* probably are not distinct species, but the answer to that problem is beyond the scope of this paper. *L. philippinense* is here recognized as an introduced, natural-

ized taxon by the asterisk preceding the generic name.

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