New Localities in Ohio for Five Vascular Plant Species

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ABSTRACT. Floristic studies are imperative for documentation of our biodiversity. We conducted floristic surveys within regions of Ohio that were ecologically interesting and contained a diverse flora. We report new records of five vascular plant species, Nigella damascena, Salix x sepulcralis, Spiraea x bumalda, Thermopsis villosa, and Veronica longifolia. Two of these species have not been reported in Ohio, while three are new to the county in which they were collected.

1. Salix x sepulcralis Smonkai * - Salicaceae; (He-068096). Collected in Highland Heights Community Park, Highland Heights, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. This species was found growing as an individual tree in a wooded lot with high soil moisture content. It has also been recorded in Shaker Median Park, Beachwood Twp. in Cuyahoga County and has been collected by Delong (2003). This species has been reported in the adjacent states of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Michigan and is prevalent in much of the northeastern United States (Kartesz and Meacham 1999). However, it has not been reported in Ohio to date.

2. Spiraea x bumalda Burven * - Rosaceae; (He-068079). Collected in Highland Heights Community Park, growing singly on north edge of park. Highland Heights, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. We think that this may have been an escape from cultivation within nearby yards of privately owned houses and may no longer survive at this locality.

3. Thermopsis villosa (Walt.) Fern. & Schub. - Fabaceae; (He-68202). Collected in a vacant lot beneath power lines on Raintree Drive, Munson Twp., Geauga Co., Ohio. It was found growing as a clump of several individuals on dry soil. This species is present in eastern United States ranging from Maine to Alabama, except in South Carolina. It has also been reported in the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, yet this is the first report of its occurrence in Ohio.

The following taxa have not been reported within the county in which they were collected:

1. Nigella damascena L* - Ranunculaceae; (He-067525). Collected in a vacant lot in Highland Heights Community Park, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio. Growing as a cultivated escape at the edge of a wooded lot.

2. Veronica longifolia L* - Scrophulariaceae; (He-068115). Collected in an open meadow adjacent to Soubusta Woods, Chardon, Geauga Co., Ohio. This species was observed growing in a clump, within a wet portion of the meadow.

Some of these species, albeit escapes from cultivation, deserve to be included in taxonomic keys for Ohio plants and in the Ohio flora. Our findings emphasize the constant need for alpha level taxonomy.

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LITERATURE CITED


