

SCABIOSA ATROPURPUREA (DIPSACACEAE) NEW TO OKLAHOMA

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ABSTRACT

Scabiosa atropurpurea, a native of southern Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia is reported for the first time as naturalized in Oklahoma. The species is known to be naturalized in the nearby states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas, as well as in California, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington.

Based on the following specimen collected in southern Oklahoma, we report *Scabiosa atropurpurea* L. (Dipsacaceae) as new to the spontaneous flora of that state.

Oklahoma. Bryan Co.: W side of Hwy 69/75 at the junction of South McKinney Ave and Hwy 69/75, right-of-way, near Calera, Oklahoma (33°55'19.78"N, 96°26'26.14"W), 19 Jun 2015, *Singhurst 21026* (BAYLU). Figure 1.

The *Scabiosa atropurpurea* population in Bryan County consisted of several hundred individuals in an infrequently mowed right-of-way. Associated flora included *Arnoglossum plantagineum*, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Carex microdonta*, *Dalea* sp., *Echinacea angustifolia*, *Fimbristylis puberula*, *Galium* sp., *Hymenopappus tenuifolius*, *Liatris* sp., *Monarda* sp., *Salvia azurea*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, and *Stenaria nigricans*.

Scabiosa atropurpurea is known to be naturalized in the nearby states of Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Texas, as well as in California, Maine, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington (Kartez 2015). The species is documented in Texas in Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Tarrant, and Wise counties and presently only known from the north-central portion of the state (Diggs et al. 1999; Invasive Plant Atlas 2015). Bryan Co., Oklahoma, is adjacent to Grayson Co., Texas and therefore the Oklahoma *Scabiosa* site is an extension to the north from its Texas range.

Scabiosa atropurpurea escapes from gardens and can rapidly spread and become an aggressive invasive weed in fields, roadsides, and prairies. The plants are rosette-forming annuals or biennials with opposite, pinnately-dissected, and simple leaves. The inflorescence is a many-flowered head on a long peduncle; corollas are generally lavender, pink, or white in color. The species has a tendency to form monocultural stands and is an extraordinary ecological threat to the remaining globally rare Blackland Prairies in north-central Texas and probably adjacent Oklahoma.



Fig. 1. *Scabiosa atropurpurea* , Bryan Co., Oklahoma, 19 Jun 2015. Photo by Jason Singhurst.

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