

***LATHYRUS PALUSTRIS* (FABACEAE) NEW TO ALABAMA**

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ABSTRACT

Lathyrus palustris (Fabaceae) is reported new to the flora of Alabama based on a 2006 collection from the Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve in Shelby County.

A study of the 235 specimens of *Lathyrus* deposited in the herbaria of Troy University (TROY), J.D. Freeman (AUA), The University of Alabama (UNA), The University of West Alabama (UWAL), Jacksonville State University (JSU), Anniston Museum of Natural History (AMAL), University of North Alabama (UNAF), Samford University (SAMF), and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) revealed a single collection of *L. palustris* L., which had been misidentified as *L. venosus* Muhl. ex Willd. *Lathyrus palustris* has not been included in Plant Life of Alabama (Mohr 1901), Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Alabama (Kral et al. 2011) or the Alabama Plant Atlas (Keener et al. 2017).

Voucher. **USA. Alabama. Shelby Co.:** W side of Ebenezer Swamp ca. 0.3 air mi E of State Route 119, ca. 0.35 air mi N of County Road 24, and ca. 5.0 air mi S of jct. of US Hwy 31 and State Route 119 in Alabaster, 33°9'56.24" N -86°48'44.62" W, 31 Aug. 2006, *Schotz 2037* (AMAL). Figures 1, 2.

Lathyrus palustris L., commonly known as Marsh Pea, has circumboreal distribution, occurring in both North America and Eurasia (Kavak 2014). In the USA, it is native throughout the northeastern and northcentral sections of the country and along the West Coast from Alaska to northern California. In the southeastern USA, it has been reported from Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee (Kartesz 2015). Although the taxon appears to be globally secure (G5), it has been assigned a rank of S1 or S2 in eight states (NatureServe 2015). The closest reports of this taxon to the location in Shelby Co., Alabama, are Douglas Co., Georgia (210 km east), Dade Co., Georgia (255 km northeast), and Coffee Co., Tennessee (360 km north). In Georgia, *L. palustris* has a state rank of S1? (Georgia Department of Natural Resources 2017). The Tennessee Natural Heritage Program ranks this taxon as S1 with records from six counties (Coffee, Knox, Monroe, Rhea, Warren, and White) (Crabtree 2016). Unless additional populations are located in Alabama, it is expected this taxon will be listed as S1 (Critically Imperiled) by the Alabama Natural Heritage Program (2016).

Lathyrus palustris is classified as OBL (Obligate Wetland Taxon) (USDA, NRCS 2016) and is considered to be highly threatened by land-use conversion and habitat fragmentation (Southern Appalachian Species Viability Project 2002). Hopefully, this population will be safe since it occurs along the west side of The University of Montevallo's Ebenezer Swamp Ecological Preserve, an upland swamp on Spring Creek.



Figure 2. Map of Alabama showing distribution of *Lathyrus palustris* in Shelby County.

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