

**FIRST REPORT OF *YOUNGIA JAPONICA* (ASTERACEAE)  
SPONTANEOUS IN NEW YORK**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Youngia japonica* is spontaneous in four counties in New York, the first report of the species for the state. The species is documented with herbarium specimens preserved in NY and photographs in the global community science program, iNaturalist.

*Youngia japonica* (L.) DC. is a scapose, rosette forming annual herb in the Cichorieae tribe of the Asteraceae. It is a pantropical weed spreading rapidly in North America (USDA, NRCS 2019; Spurr 2006; Weakly 2015). New York and Pennsylvania are indicated for the range of *Youngia japonica* in the Flora of North America (Spurr 2006) and the USDA PLANTS database (USDA NRCS 2019), but the species is not reported in the Plants of Pennsylvania (Rhoades & Block 2007) or the Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of New York State or the New York Flora Atlas (Weldy et al. 2019; Werier 2017). No specimens from New York are known besides those cited here. *Youngia thunbergiana* DC. has been treated as a subspecies of *Y. japonica* (*Y. japonica* subsp. *elstonii* (Hochr.) Babc. & Stebbins.) and is also found in North America but differs in having leafy scapes (Urbatsch et al. 2013).

Voucher specimens. **New York. New York Co.:** New York City, Central Park, between 90th and 91st Streets and between 7th and 8th Avenues, W of the West Drive, on slope E of Safari Playground. 40.788098, -73.966561 (WGS84,  $\pm 25$  m), ca 36 m elev., 7 Oct 2019, Atha & Candiani 16078 (BH, MU, NY).



Figure 1. *Youngia japonica*. A. Basal rosette and base of naked scape. B. Capitulescence. Photographed and collected in Central Park, New York Co., New York, 7 October 2019, Atha & Candiani 16078 (BH).



Figure 1. *Youngia japonica* collected in Central Park, New York Co., New York, 7 October 2019, Atha and Candiani 16078 (NY).

Several *Youngia japonica* plants were observed at the collection site in Central Park. They were growing in a bed densely planted with *Euonymus fortunei* obtained from a nursery in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. *Youngia japonica* has also been observed in New York, Kings, Queens, and Ulster counties, New York (iNaturalist 2019). Outside its native range, the species usually occurs in gardens, lawns, roadsides and other disturbed areas but is reported to be spreading into natural areas (Weakley 2015).

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