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REDISCOVERY OF *TRIOSTEUM PERFOLIATUM* IN LOUISIANA

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ABSTRACT

Triosteum perfoliatum L. is an herbaceous species widespread in the midwestern and upper midwestern USA but relatively uncommon in the South. This species was previously known in Louisiana only from a single collection made in 1967 in Natchitoches Parish, which is located in the central portion of the state. This paper reports the rediscovery of this species in the general vicinity of the original collection site ca. 50 years later.

The range of *Triosteum perfoliatum* L. extends from Massachusetts south to Georgia and Alabama, west to Texas and Nebraska, and north to Minnesota (BONAP 2015; USDA plants database). However, populations of this species are most concentrated in the center of its range in the states of Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, and Wisconsin (BONAP 2015; Brooks 1986; Holmes et al. 1999; Fernald 1950; Small 1933; USDA Plants Database 2016). On the periphery of its range, especially in the southern and southeastern USA, it is much less common. In the South, *Triosteum perfoliatum* is currently reported from 2 counties in South Carolina, 8 counties in northern Georgia, 4 counties in Alabama, 1 parish in Louisiana, and 1 county in Texas (BONAP 2015; Holmes et al. 1999; Keener et al. 2016; Thieret 1967; Thomas & Allen 1996; USDA Plants Database 2016).

A specimen from Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana, collected in 1967, is one of the two southernmost locations of this species in the USA. Since the only Louisiana record is nearly 50 years old, *Triosteum perfoliatum* was ranked SH (historical) for the state (NatureServe 2015). While surveying calcareous prairies and woodlands in this region, *Triosteum perfoliatum* was rediscovered by the author in June 2016 in the vicinity of where it was originally documented by Theiret (1967; Southeastern Biota 2016). Approximately ten individuals were observed on the edges of two separate 0.5 hectare prairies in the prairie/woodland ecotone. Close associates of *Triosteum perfoliatum* at these sites include *Viburnum rufidulum*, *Viburnum dentatum*, *Crataegus marshallii*, *Crataegus spathulata, Fraxinus americana, Cornus florida*, *Cornus drummondii*, *Frangula caroliniana*, and *Diospyros virginiana*. Exploration of additional calcareous prairies and woodlands are planned for the near future.

Locating this population of *Triosteum perfoliatum* is significant since this species hasn't been observed at this location in ca. 50 years. This site is also significant in that it is possibly the southernmost location of this species. The Louisiana record of *T. perfoliatum* is ca. 225 km from the nearest known location in Anderson Co., Texas. This location is due west of the Louisiana locale. The next nearest location is to the north in Polk Co., Arkansas, ca. 333 km from the Louisiana record. The closest location to the east of the Louisiana locale is from Hale Co., Alabama, which is ca. 532 km away. A voucher specimen is on deposit at the Louisiana State University Herbarium (LSU) in Baton Rouge.

Voucher. **Louisiana**. Natchitoches Par.: Calcareous woodland surrounding hilltop prairie ca. 3.5 km SSE of Provencal, 9 Jun 2016, *Doffitt 3431* (LSU).

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