

***LONICERA FLAVA* (CAPRIFOLIACEAE) NEW TO THE TEXAS FLORA**

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ABSTRACT

Lonicera flava (Caprifoliaceae) is documented as part of the Texas native flora. The species was discovered in Daingerfield State Park (Morris Co.) in 1991, in Atlanta State Recreational Area (Cass Co.) in 1996, and at White Rock (Red River Co.) in 2009. The close proximity of the Texas plants to those of populations in Oklahoma and Arkansas indicate that the species is native to Texas. All three of these collections were initially identified as the more common *L. sempervirens*.

Lonicera flava Sims was first found in Texas in 1991 by Carr at Daingerfield State Park in Morris County (Figure 1) and identified at the time as *L. sempervirens*. This was corrected to *L. flava* in 2020 by George Yatskievych, Curator at the University of Texas Herbarium. The second collection was made by Singhurst at Atlanta State Recreational Area in 1996 in Cass County while conducting permanent vegetation plots sampling. The third collection was made near White Rock Community, in Red River County in 2009 by Holmes et al. The second and third collections were also initially determined as *L. sempervirens*.

Voucher specimens. **Texas.** Cass Co.: 1.6 mi N of jct of Hwy 96 and FM 1154, Atlanta State Recreational Area, Vegetation Sampling Plot #1, 1 Jul 1966, *Singhurst 5570* (BAYLU). Morris Co.: NW corner of Daingerfield State Park, ca. 500 ft., a few degrees S of due W of park entrance on State Rte 11/49, 4 Apr 1991, *Carr 11029* (TEX-LL). Red River Co.: Near White Rock community, 5 May 2009, *Holmes et al 14537* (BAYLU).

This is the first report of *Lonicera flava* in Texas — it is not cited in Correll and Johnston (1970), USDA, NRCS (2000), Turner et. al. (2003), or Kartesz (2015). In the USA, it occurs in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Tennessee. Throughout its range, it frequents rocky soils in woods, slopes, bluffs, ledges and stream margins. The presence of *L. flava* in Oklahoma counties bordering the Red River and in southwest Arkansas suggests that the species is native to Texas.

The Morris County site was discovered by Carr during a Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Land Inventory Project that focused on natural plant communities in state parks. The Department of Land inventory Report (TPWD 1989) described the site with a mostly open canopy dominated by *Pinus echinata*, *Quercus falcata*, *Quercus alba* and *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Understory trees and shrubs include *Cornus florida*, *Callicarpa americana*, and *Vaccinium arboreum*. Ground cover includes

Chasmanthium sessiliflorum, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Scleria triglomerata*, *Clitoria mariana*, *Asclepias amplexicaulis*, *Baptisia nuttallii*, *Elephantopus* sp., and *Rudbeckia hirta*. The soils at this site are derived from the Queen City Sand (Eocene) Geologic Formation and include Cuthbert and Redsprings soils, 15-40% slopes (both gravelly fine sandy loams) and Tenaha loamy fine sand, 8-20 percent slopes.

The Cass County population was documented by Jason Singhurst at Atlanta State Recreational Area while conducting permanent vegetation plot sampling (Singhurst & Sparks 2002). The forest is dominated by *Pinus echinata*, *Quercus stellata*, and *Quercus marilandica*. Graminoid cover includes *Schizachyrium scoparium* and other warm season grasses. Shrubs include *Rhus glabra*, *Diospyros virginiana*, and *Prunus* spp. The site is underlain by Queen City Sand (Eocene) Geologic Formation and Weches Geologic Formation consisting of glauconitic sand, clay interbeds, and ironstone outcropping on ridges and side slopes. The site is located on a rim of a ridge top where it meets a steep slope (30-40%) above Wilkins Creek.

The White Rock population is located on Annona Chalk Formation and includes blackland prairie and chalk glade flora. The flora includes *Juniperus virginiana*, *Rhus trilobata*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Helianthus maximiliani*, *Echinacea atrorubens*, *Marshallia caespitosa*, *Carex microdonta*, and *Stenaria nigricans*.

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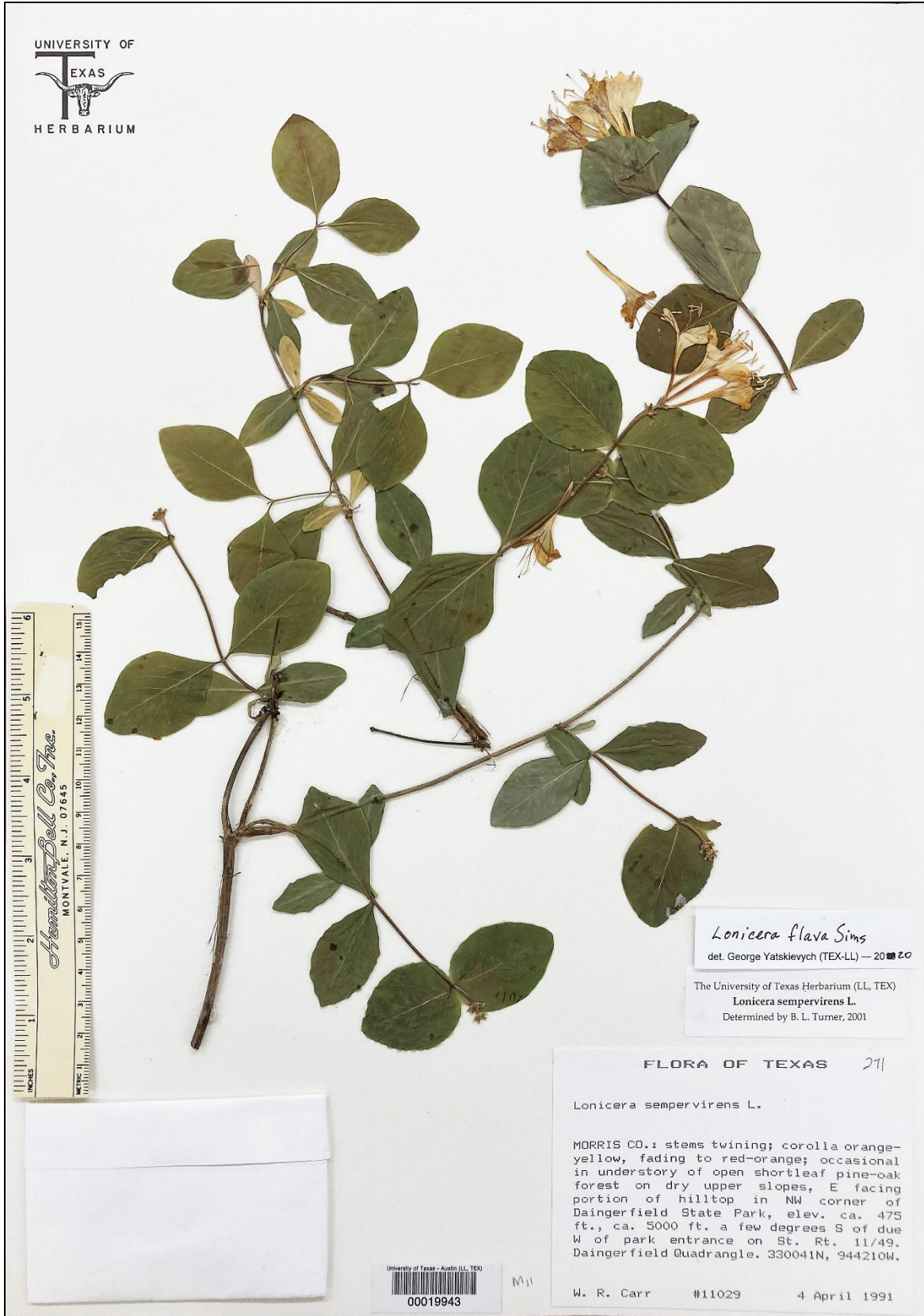


Figure 1. *Lonicera flava* from Morris Co., Texas. Photo by George Yatskievych (Curator, Herb. TEX-LL).