

LAPPULA SQUARROSA (BORAGINACEAE) NEW TO THE FLORA OF TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Lappula squarrosa (Boraginaceae) is documented as naturalizing in Texas. A population was found growing in an open grassland at Lake Fryer in Ochiltree County. The species has moderate invasive potential in the High Plains of Texas.

Lappula squarrosa (Retz.) Dumort., commonly known as European stickseed or bur forget-me-not, was recently documented as naturalizing in Ochiltree Co., Texas. The species has not previously been reported in Texas (Correll & Johnson 1970; Hatch et al. 1990; Turner et al. 2003; Kartez 2015). USDA Plants Database (2023) has included it as naturalized in Texas "without county data," nor can we find a voucher as documentation. Therefore, this is the first documented report of the species in Texas. The closest known populations are in counties of north-central New Mexico.

Lappula squarrosa is native to Europe and Asia, where it is common, and it is an introduced species in much of North America and Africa (Wikipedia 2023). The species has been introduced into the majority of states in the USA and southern Canada. It has not known to naturalize in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and North and South Carolina (BONAP 2015). This plant grows easily in a wide range of habitat types, including agricultural fields, roadsides, gravel beds, and rocky waste places. It thrives in overgrazed pastures and tolerates cold temperatures.

Lappula squarrosa (Figs. 1, 2) was found at Wolfe Creek Park on south side of Fryer Lake in Ochiltree County. Many plants were growing in a grassy, frequently mowed opening. Dominant associated plants included *Bouteloua dactyloides*, *Erodium cicutarium*, and *Lesquerella gordonii*.

Voucher. Texas. Ochiltree Co.: Wolfe Creek Park in grassland on S side of Lake Fryer, 6.3 mi SE of the jct. of Hwy 83 and Hwy 70 just S of Perryton, head E on County Road U 6.2 mi until jct. with Park Road 25A and then head S on 25A 0.3 mi to park loop on S side of the dam (36° 13' 09.83" -100° 38' 22.27"), 25 May 2023, C. Ruthven s.n. (TEX-LL).

Plants of *Lappula squarrosa* are annual herbs that produce an erect stem up to a meter high, often with sprays of many long and bending branches. Leaves are linear to oval, up to 5 centimeters long, and hirsute with whitish hairs. Herbage emits a scent generally considered unpleasant. The inflorescence is a long, leafy raceme of tiny flowers near the ends of the branches. The fruit is a cluster of four nutlets with hooked prickles.



Figure 1. *Lappula squarrosa* at Wolfe Creek Park along Lake Fryer, Ochiltree Co., Texas



Figure 2. *Lappula squarrosa* grassland at Wolfe Creek Park along Lake Fryer.

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