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NEW ENGLAND NOTE

ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF RHODE ISLAND

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The recent checklist of Rhode Island plants (Gould et al. 1998) provides an excellent documentation of the state's vascular flora. Although geographically distant, I have continued to maintain an interest in the flora of my home state since my first publication on the subject (Tucker 1978). Over the past several years, I have made a few collections that are new records for the state flora. Most are non-native species, and are enumerated below by family.

DRYOPTERIDACEAE

Athyrium niponicum (Mett.) Hance – Japanese painted fern is well known as a garden plant. Robbin Moran and John Mickel (The New York Botanical Garden), who confirmed the identification of this collection, indicated that this species has not been previously noted as a garden escape.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, W side of Long Pond, in rock walls and crevices between paving stones, not planted, probably naturalized from garden plants, weedy under planted shrubs, like *Euonymus alatus*, as well, 5 Aug 2004, G.C. Tucker 13757 (NEBC, NY).

PINACEAE

Abies homolepis Siebold & Zucc. – This East Asian fir is occasionally cultivated. Peter Lockwood (Rhode Island Association of Wetland Scientists) showed me a row of fine planted specimens about 15 m tall, which were originally pointed out to him by the late Richard Champlin. I collected specimens from these planted trees (13711, BH, EIU), and a search in the adjacent wooded swamp revealed scattered saplings up to 75 cm tall. This species is easily identified by its grooved twigs, according to Ed Cope (L. H. Bailey Hortorium, Cornell University), who examined duplicate specimens of both the planted trees and saplings.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Kent Co., Greene, Narrow Lane, 3 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker & P. Lockwood 13712* (BH, GH).

TAXACEAE

Taxus × *media* Rehder – The European *T. baccata* is possibly naturalized in the Rhode Island flora (Gould et al. 1998) and the other parent of this hybrid, *T. cuspidata*, has been collected as an escape in adjacent southeastern Connecticut (Tucker 1995), and appearing in “woodlots and young forests throughout southern New England” (Randall and Marinelli 1996). *Taxus* × *media* was listed as “Cultivated, not in U.S.” by the National Plant Data Center (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005).

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, Round Pond, S shore, in pine plantation, with *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*, *Athyrium filix-foemina*, and *Maianthemum canadense*, 14 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13518* (CONN).

AMARANTHACEAE

Amaranthus blitum L.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Charlestown, Biscuit City Road, Earth Care Farms, plentiful weed on compost heaps, 27 Jun 2002, *G.C. Tucker 12994* (CONN, EIU, ILLS).

Amaranthus powellii S. Watson

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Charlestown, Biscuit City Road, Earth Care Farms, abundant weed in vegetable garden, 12 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13468* (CONN, DAO, EIU, GH, ILLS).

APIACEAE

Sium sisarum L. – Skirret, native to eastern Asia, has been cultivated in Europe for centuries for edible roots, but is little known in North America. It is noted as “Cultivated, not in U.S.” by the National Plant Data Center (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005).

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Bradford, 47 Bradford Road (Route 91), weed in vegetable garden, 28 Jul 2001, *G.C. Tucker 12446* (CONN).

BRASSICACEAE

Cardamine flexuosa With. – This bittercress has been noted from several states in the eastern U.S., including Massachusetts and New Hampshire (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005).

VOUCHER SPECIMENS: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Charlestown, Wordens Pond Road just W of South Kingstown line, flower garden weed, 3 Aug 2005, *G.C. Tucker*

14230 (CONN, EIU); Perryville, middle of W shore of Long Pond, plentiful weed in rose garden, 12 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13473* (EIU, GH, MO).

Cardamine hirsuta L. – Lisa Gould (Rhode Island Natural History Survey, pers. comm.) informed me that this species has turned up in several places in Rhode Island in the last few years. The first collection below appears to be the earliest.

VOUCHER SPECIMENS: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, W side of Long Pond, weed in perennial border, 19 Oct 1999, *G.C. Tucker 11966* (NEBC), 5 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13759* (CONN, EIU).

CAPPARACEAE

Cleome hassleriana Chodat – This familiar garden species was noted from Providence Co. by the National Plant Data Center (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005), but was not included by Gould et al. (1998).

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, W side of Long Pond, compost area, 5 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13764* (NEBC).

CARYOPHYLLACEAE

Sagina japonica (Sw.) Ohwi – In New England, Japanese pearlwort has been cited from Connecticut and Massachusetts (Mitchell and Tucker 1991; U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005). It has since been added to the floras of New Hampshire (G. Crow, University of New Hampshire, pers. comm.) and Vermont (A. Gilman, W.D. Countryman Environmental Assessment & Planning, pers. comm.) based on *G.C. Tucker 8013* (NHA, NYS, VT).

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Kent Co., West Greenwich, Nipmuck Trail on the E side of Bailey Pond, sandy driveway shaded by white pines, 4 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13746* (CONN, EIU, MICH, NEBC, NHA).

CRASSULACEAE

Sedum sarmentosum Bunge – Stringy stonecrop has been attributed to most eastern U.S. states (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005), Rhode Island being an exception.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, W side of Long Pond, compost area bordering oak-laurel woods, 5 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13776* (CONN, EIU, NEBC).

FABACEAE

Wisteria sinensis (Sims) Sweet – Chinese wisteria has been noted from many eastern states, including Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont in New England. According to Lisa Gould (pers. comm.), this species is naturalized in Johnston, Providence Co., Rhode Island.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, Long Pond, middle of W shore, due W of island, along path in oak woods, no dwelling or foundation nearby, some vines as much as 8 m long, 15 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13519* (CONN, EIU).

JUGLANDACEAE

Juglans ailanthifolia Carrière – Japanese walnut was reported from Maine, Massachusetts, and New York only by the National Plant Data Center (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005). Two large planted trees at an adjacent home appear to be the source of the plants noted here.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Wakefield, Tuckertown Park, S edge of Tuckertown Rd. just E of Route 110, abundant seedlings and saplings in hedgerow and shrub plantings, 5 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13756* (EIU, GH, MOR, NEBC).

LAMIACEAE

Agastache foeniculum (Pursh) Kuntze – Blue giant hyssop is native to the western U.S. Seymour (1969) noted this species from Connecticut and New Hampshire. This species has been increasingly cultivated for its attractive purple flowers and anise-scented foliage, and might be found as an escape more often. At the Charlestown location, the species increased from one to two populations from 2003 to 2004, and is setting seed abundantly.

VOUCHER SPECIMENS: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Charlestown, Biscuit City Road, Earth Care Farms, 27 Jun 2002, edge of mowed lot bordering damp woods, vegetative, *G.C. Tucker 12994* (EIU), flowering, 11 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13472* (CONN, EIU, US); Perryville, W side of Long Pond, weed in area where clippings and brush are dumped, 5 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13762* (NEBC).

Perilla frutescens (L.) Britton var. *crispa* (Benth.) H.W. Li – Beefsteak plant or shiso, a native of eastern Asia, is naturalized in most of the eastern U.S. (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005). However, in New England it has been found previously only in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, W side of Long Pond, weed in area where clippings and brush are dumped, 11 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13459* (CONN, EIU, US).

Stachys byzantina K. Koch – Lamb's-ears, a native of the Mediterranean region, is occasionally cultivated for its flower and soft gray foliage. In the northeastern U.S., it has been reported from Connecticut, Vermont, and New York (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005). It was reported from southeastern Connecticut by Hill (1996). The owner of the property where this species was found (Albert Taylor, Narragansett Indian Tribe) told me that it had been there for several years and was spreading.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Kent Co., West Greenwich, Nipmuck Trail on E side of Bailey Pond, damp old field, 4 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13747* (CONN, NEBC).

POLYGONACEAE

Polygonum × *bohemicum* (J. Chrtek & A. Chrtková) P. Zika & A. Jacobsen – The identity and widespread distribution of this hybrid of *P. cuspidatum* and *P. sachalinense* was the subject of a recent paper by Zika and Jacobsen (2003). Although they reported the hybrid from several northeastern states, Rhode Island was not included among their cited specimens.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Ashaway, Wellstown Road at Ashaway River (Green Fall River), sunny, steep embankment, 12 Sept 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13483* (EIU, WTU).

ROSACEAE

Rubus × *neglectus* C. Peck – This hybrid was originally described from New York State. Fernald (1950) characterized it as an obvious series of intermediates between the parents, *R. strigosus* and *R. occidentalis*. In the National Plant Data Center (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005) it is treated as a synonym of *R. strigosus*. Seymour (1969) did not include this taxon among New England species of *Rubus*. This hybrid has been reported from southeastern Connecticut (Tucker 1995), so an occurrence in southern Rhode Island is not surprising.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Charlestown, Wordens Pond Road just W of South Kingstown line, brushy edge of field bordering woods, 19 Jun 2002, *G.C. Tucker 12806* (BRIT, CONN, EIU).

RUTACEAE

Phellodendron amurense Rupr. – Corktree has been documented in only three states, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Illinois (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005). This species was not attributed to Rhode Island by Gould et al. (1998), although *P. japonicum* Maxim. was; *P. amurense* can be distinguished by the leaves having a ciliate margin and hairs on the midvein below (Rehder 1940). Several plants were also observed growing nearby at the SE cove of Tucker Pond.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Wakefield, SW of Turtle Pond, 6 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13735* (CONN, EIU, NEBC).

SALICACEAE

Salix atrocinerea Brot. [synonyms: *S. cinerea* L. subsp. *oleifolia* (Sm.) Macreight; *S. cinerea* L. subsp. *atrocinerea* (Brot.) Guinier] – The late Richard Champlin (Rhode Island Natural History Survey) told me that

he had found this species at the first site mentioned above, in 1998. Four years later, I had an opportunity to stop there and collect specimens myself. In the last several years, I have found this species several times in the southwestern part of the state. The large number of collections suggests it is widely established. This European species has been reported from Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina (U.S.D.A., NRCS, 2005). Lisa Gould (Rhode Island Natural History Survey, pers. comm.) observed this species at several sites each in Kent, Newport, and Washington counties during 2005.

VOUCHER SPECIMENS: Rhode Island: Kent Co., West Greenwich, former Pine Top Ski Area on Molasses Hill Road, damp gravelly soil, abandoned parking lot, 21 Jun 2002, *G.C. Tucker 12835* (BKL, EIU, GH); West Greenwich, Big River Management Area, along Congdon River, roadside bordering swamp with white pine and red maple, 10 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker, P. Lockwood & R. Enser 13437* (CONN, EIU); Washington Co., Ashaway, ½ mile E of Rt. 3 on Rt. 216, edge of red maple swamp, 4 Aug 1997, *G.C. Tucker 11348* (CAN, EIU); Rockville, Route 138 just SE of Connecticut line, edge of Atlantic white cedar swamp, 4 Aug 1997, *G.C. Tucker 11346* (CAN, EIU); Shannock, Horseshoe Falls on the Pawcatuck River, elevation 85 feet, 11 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13465* (BRIT, CONN, EIU); Wakefield, Long Pond, middle of W shore, NW of island, shore of pond, 4 Aug 1998, *G.C. Tucker 11508* (CAN, GH, EIU); Wakefield, White Pond, SW corner, rocky gravelly shore, 6 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13784* (CONN, EIU); Westerly, Woody Hill Road, path through oak-huckleberry woods, 7 Aug 2005, *G.C. Tucker 14339A* (CONN).

SOLANACEAE

Solanum sarachoides Sendtner – Seymour (1969) recorded this South American species only from eastern Massachusetts. Since that time it has evidently spread, being now reported from all states except Connecticut (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2005). Mitchell and Tucker (1997) used the name *S. physalifolium* Rusby for this species. Gleason and Cronquist (1991) indicated that *S. sarachoides* might be correctly used only for a South American plant, and that the North American ones would then be called *S. physalifolium*.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Charlestown, Earth Care Farms, clambering over weeds in fallow vegetable garden, abundant, 12 Sep 2003, *G.C. Tucker 13470* (CONN, DAO, EIU, GH).

TILIACEAE

Tilia cordata P. Mill. – Little-leaf linden was not reported from New England by Seymour (1969), although *T. × europaea* L. (its hybrid with *T. platyphyllos* Scop.) was reported from four states, including Rhode Island. The source of the naturalized plants collected here appears to be a row of mature trees planted by an adjacent house.

VOUCHER SPECIMEN: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Wakefield, Tuckertown Park, S edge of Tuckertown Rd. just E of Route 110, plentiful in thickets and hedgerows, 5 Aug 2004, *G.C. Tucker 13755* (BKL, CONN, EIU, GH, NEBC).

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