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.


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.
The European this familiar garden species was noted Stringy stonecrop has been attributed Skirret, native to eastern Asia, has been cultivated In New England, Japanese pearl wort has Chinese wisteria has been noted from Lisa Gould (Rhode Island Natural History (Route 91), weed 111 vegetable garden, 28 Jul SIM! AMARANTHACEAE 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, GH, ILLS). AMARYLLIDACEAE Sisyrinchium striatum L. – This bittercress has been noted from several places in Rhode Island in the last few years. The first collection below appears to be the earliest. Voucher specimen: Rhode Island: Washington Co., Perryville, Round Pond, S shore, in pine plantation, with Parthenocissus quinquefolia, Athyrium filix-femina, and Maianthemum canadense, 14 Sep 2003, G.C. Tucker 13518 (CONN). 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 E side of Bailey Pond, sandy driveway shaded by white pines, 4 Aug 2004, G.C. Tucker 13746 (CONN, EIU, NISC, 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.
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.

JUGLANDACEAE

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, EU).

Agastache foeniculum (Pursh) Kunze – 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.

LAMIACEAE

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.

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.

SALICACEAE

Salix atrocinerea Brot. [synonyms: S. cinerea L. subsp. oleifolia (Sm.) Macrigh; 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.


**Solanaeae**

*Solanum sarachoides* Sendtnr – 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 Specimens:** 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, GI).

**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.

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**Literature Cited**


