ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF CONNECTICUT

Gordon C. Tucker, Eastern Illinois University
NEW ENGLAND NOTE

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GORDON C. TUCKER
Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL 61920-3099
e-mail: gctucker@eiu.edu

Since the publication of the Connecticut checklist by Dowhan (1979), new state records have continued to appear. These were summarized by Mehrhoff (1995), including some made by Tucker (1987, 1991). Although geographically distant, the flora of Connecticut has continued to hold my attention since the publication of a flora of the southeastern part of the state (Tucker 1995). Over the past decade, I have made several collections that are new records for the state flora. These new records are reported in this paper, as well as a 1970 collection of Coronilla scorpionides that was never added to the state's flora. All are non-native, either persisting or possibly naturalized species, and are enumerated below by family.

BRASSICACEAE

Cardamine flexuosa Withering – An annual European species (Lihová et al. 2006), noted in the Northeast from New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts (U.S.D.A., NRCS 2006), and Rhode Island (Tucker 2006). The flowers normally have 6 stamens, of which 2 may or may not be smaller than the others, while the similar Hairy Bittercress, C. hirsuta L., also naturalized in Connecticut and nearby Rhode Island (Tucker 2005), normally has 4 stamens. Additionally C. hirsuta has fruits appressed to a straight inflorescence axis while C. flexuosa has fruits on divaricate pedicels from a somewhat flexuous axis (Ihsan Al-Shehbaz, Missouri Botanical Garden, pers. comm.). The habitats of the collections cited below are similar and the same as those where I have collected this species in Rhode Island, South Carolina, New York, and Illinois. This is a common greenhouse and nursery weed further south, and may not persist in Connecticut.
This Eurasian grass, native to the Middle East, rivet or tetraploid wheat is cultivated in temperate areas worldwide (Morrison 2007; Tucker 1996). The only other state from which it has been noted as an escape is New York (Mitchell and Tucker 2000; U.S.D.A., NRCS 2006). It is probably present more widely, but confused with the much more commonly cultivated hexaploid bread wheat, T. aestivum L. A key to the species is provided by Dore and McNeill (1980, p. 193) and in the Flora of North America treatment of Triticum (Morrison 2007).
SALICACEAE

Salix atrocinerea Brot. – This European shrub is not an altogether unexpected addition to the flora of Connecticut, since in recent years it has become one of the commonest shrubby willow species in adjacent southern Rhode Island (Tucker 2006). I have kept my eyes open for this species in southeastern Connecticut since the mid 1990s, but the following specimen is the first occurrence I have found.

Voucher specimen: Connecticut: New London Co., North Stonington, Wyassup Lake, middle of E shore along Murphy Road, elev. 305 feet, damp woods bordering lake, several shrubs up to 3 m tall, 8 Aug 2004, Tucker 13816 (CONN, GH, NCBS).

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Literature Cited


