

Georgia

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Noteworthy Collections

Georgia

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Clinopodium gracile (Benth.) Kuntze (LAMIACEAE)—**Cobb County:** Marietta, Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area, Cochran Shoals–Interstate Parkway/Gunby Creek unit, just northeast of intersection of I-285/Interstate North Pkwy. and Powers Ferry Rd., west bank of Chattahoochee River, disturbed area (easement) along trail (continuation of Eugene Gunby Rd.), ca. 0.25 mi [400 m] northwest of parking lot, 33.9039°N, –84.4455°W, 21 May 2007, *Zomlefer 1627* (CRNRA Herbarium, GA).

Significance. The first vouchered record for Georgia was discovered during a floristic inventory of the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area for the National Park Service (Zomlefer et al. 2011). *Clinopodium gracile* (slender wild basil) is listed for Georgia in the PLANTS Database (United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service 2010) based presumably on data supplied by Jennifer A. Moore, a former Master's degree graduate student at GA Herbarium (1999–2002). However, she has no knowledge of this record (J. Moore, pers. comm.), and no vouchers have previously been recorded for Georgia (e.g., Jones and Coile 1979, 1988; Coile and Jones 1985).

Clinopodium gracile is native to and widespread in southeastern Asia (China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar,

Thailand, Vietnam), where it commonly grows in fields and along forest margins and stream banks (Makino 1955, Ohwi 1984, Li and Hedge 1994, Wu and Raven 1998). This variable species is a member of the “clinopodioid complex,” a morphologically diverse and taxonomically difficult group (Cantino and Wagstaff 1998). Although the generic limits of *Clinopodium* s.l. are unclear, the Old World clade (*Clinopodium* s.s.) is well supported with molecular data (Bräuchler et al. 2006, 2010). The species delimitation of *C. gracile* and allies are also in need of revision (C. Bräuchler, pers. comm.). Weakley (2010) differentiates this species from 10 other *Clinopodium* s.l. species in the southeastern United States by the herbaceous habit, pubescent stems, elliptic to ovate leaves, dense and sessile flower clusters, 4.0–5.0 mm long corolla, and 2.5–5.5 mm long calyx.

Thieret (1964) documented the first record of *Clinopodium gracile* for the United States, in Lafayette, Louisiana; the species subsequently spread throughout much of the state and into southern Arkansas (Reese and Thieret 1966, Sundell et al. 1999, Urbatsch et al. 2008). Until this new Georgia record, the distribution in the United States was limited to two general regions of the Southeast (e.g., see Kartesz 2010): southern Arkansas–Louisiana–southwestern Mississippi (Alford 2001, Urbatsch et al. 2008) and southern Alabama–extreme western panhandle Florida (Burkhalter 1984, Woods et al. 2003, Wunderlin and Hansen

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2010). The habitats include open woodland, bottomland hardwood forest, and a variety of disturbed areas (e.g., roadside ditches).

The new locality in northwestern Georgia is a striking northern disjunct from these previously documented areas (ca. 362 km [225 mi]). About 20 plants, in a dense mat, were growing in an exposed area along a roadside with weedy associates including *Danthonia spicata* (L.) P. Beauv. ex Roem. & Schult., *Hypochaeris radicata* L., *Lepidium virginicum* L. var. *virginicum*, *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam., *Modiola caroliniana* (L.) G. Don, *Trifolium campestre* Schreb., and *T. dubium* Sibth. The vouchered disjunct distribution of the species in the Southeast may be spurious, as this species will likely be discovered elsewhere in Georgia and in states nearby.

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