

New to Oklahoma: *Decodon verticillatus* (Lythraceae)**Bruce Hoagland**

Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73019
bhoagland@ou.edu

David Arbour

United States Forest Service
111 S. State Highway 259A
Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728

Brenda D. Smith

Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma 73019
argia@ou.edu

ABSTRACT

Decodon verticillatus (L.) Elliott is a suffrutescent plant of wetland habitats that is common throughout much of the eastern United States. Although it is known from neighboring Arkansas and Texas, we report the first known population from Oklahoma. Approximately 15 plants were found on the Tiak District of the Ouachita National Forest west of Haworth, McCurtain County. *Published online www.phytologia.org Phytologia 104(2): 8-9 (June 21, 2022). ISSN 030319430.*

KEY WORDS: *Decodon verticillatus*, Lythraceae, Oklahoma

Decodon verticillatus (L.) Elliott is a suffrutescent plant common to wetland habitats in the eastern United States. The arching stems grow up to 2.5m and often root upon contact with the substrate (Vines 1960). The closest populations of *D. verticillatus* to Oklahoma occur in adjacent Little River and Sevier counties, Arkansas (Kartesz 2015). The population reported here was encountered on 7 October 2021 during a reconnaissance of wetland habitats in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. The accompanying photos illustrate the habitat (Fig. 1) and show emerging shoots of plants the following year (Fig. 2). Approximately 15 plants occurred in a partially shaded hillside seep located on an unnamed stream in the Tiak District of the Ouachita National Forest, approximately four miles west and three miles south of Haworth. Mature plants were in fruit. Associated species included *Acer rubrum*, *Alnus serrulata*, *Boehmeria cylindrica*, *Carex* sp., *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Hydrocotyle verticillata*, *Impatiens capensis*, *Juncus effusus*, *Osmundastrum cinnamomea*, *Saccharum giganteum*, *Saururus cernuus*, *Triadenum* sp., and *Woodwardia areolata*. Also present were 4-6 mature plants and several seedlings of *Triadica sebifera*. A voucher was collected and will be deposited in the Robert Bebb Herbarium (OKL) at the University of Oklahoma.

LITERATURE CITED

- Kartesz, J. T. 2015. The Biota of North America Program (BONAP). Taxonomic Data Center. (<http://www.bonap.net/tdc>).
- Vines, R. A. 1960. Trees, shrubs, and woody vines of the Southwest, a guide for the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. University of Texas Press.



Figure 1. Seep habitat containing *Decodon verticillatus*, McCurtain County, Oklahoma.



Figure 2. Emerging shoots of *Decodon verticillatus*, McCurtain County, Oklahoma. Photographed on 28 April 2022.