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## Verbascum phlomoides L. and V. lychnitis L. in Iowa

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## VERBASCUM PHLOMOIDES L. AND *V. LYCHNITIS* L. IN IOWA

ROBERT C. MILLER

*Verbascum phlomoides* L. does not appear on Cratty's list (1933) of the Iowa flora. Rydberg (1932) mentions Iowa as one of the states in which it is found, stating that its habitats are "waste places." Sones (1913), in his "Notes on the Flora of Johnson County, Iowa" claims that it is, "Rare but established at Iowa City and Hill's Sidings."

There are five specimens of *V. phlomoides* in the herbarium of the State University of Iowa. Shimek collected and identified three of them in Iowa City. He found two specimens in "Black's pasture west of City Park" on July 7, 1911. The third Iowa City specimen was gathered by Shimek in Finkbine Field on August 16, 1926. A specimen was taken and identified by the same collector on August 30, 1923, along "R. R. roadbed E. of Farmington, Lee County, Iowa." The fifth specimen of *V. phlomoides* was collected by Miss Howe at Fredericksburg, Chickasaw County, Iowa (date not marked on herbarium sheet).

All of the specimens of *V. phlomoides* in the herbarium of the State University of Iowa were checked by the present writer with the descriptions for the species given in the manuals of Bonnier (1911-34), Britton and Brown (1913), Deam (1940), Gray (1908), Hegi (1907-1931), and Rydberg (1932) and were found to coincide closely with the various authors' descriptions. Because of the great similarity between *Verbascum thapsus* L. and *V. phlomoides* L., a close examination of herbarium specimens may disclose the fact that many specimens labelled *V. thapsus* are in reality *V. phlomoides*. According to Gray's Manual the stem of *V. thapsus* is "winged by the decurrent bases of the oblong acute leaves", while the sessile leaves of *V. phlomoides* are "not at all or only slightly decurrent." Deam (1940) says that the inflorescence of *V. phlomoides* is interrupted, "at least the lower clusters somewhat remote; . . . corollas 25-40 mm wide." The same author in describing *V. thapsus* states that the inflorescence is densely crowded and "corollas 15-22 mm wide."

The distribution of *Verbascum phlomoides* L., formerly limited to Johnson County in Iowa, should be enlarged to include Chickasaw and Lee counties. The actual distribution of this plant may be more accurately recorded when the distinguishing characters mentioned in the various manuals are used to separate it from *Verbascum thapsus* L.

*Verbascum Lychnitis* L. is an introduced plant which according to all available records has not yet been reported from Iowa. It is not found in Cratty's list (1933) nor in an earlier paper by the Fitzpatrick's (1903) entitled "The Scrophulariaceae of Iowa." There is a single specimen of *V. Lychnitis* in the herbarium of the State University of Iowa. This specimen was collected and identified by Shi-

mek on August 21, 1917, in a "prairie opening on Backbone S. W. of Winterset, Madison Co., Iowa." The present writer has verified Shimke's identification of the specimen labelled *Verbascum Lychnitis* L. with the aid of the manuals of Bonnier, Britton and Brown, Gray, and Hegi. Britton and Brown say that the stem is angled, "rather stout, paniculately branched above." The distinctive characters mentioned by Gray's Manual are: "clothed with thin powdery woolliness; . . . flowers . . . in a pyramidal panicle." Bonnier states that the corolla measures from 13 to 22 mm in width.

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