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THE GENUS *LYSIMACHIA* IN IOWA

GEORGE J. GOODMAN AND P. J. LEYENDECKER

Many botanists, including students who have studied the Primulaceæ from a world viewpoint, consider *Lysimachia* and *Steironema* as one genus. *Lysimachia* is here considered in this broad sense.

Authentic material of five species and one variety from North Dakota, described by Greene and by Lunell, has not been seen, but any Iowa specimens examined that seemed to possibly agree with the original descriptions of the Dakota plants did not appear to be sufficiently distinct from the earlier described species, listed below, to warrant separating them.

Lysimachia (Tourn.) L. including *Steironema* Raf.

Key to the species:

Stems creeping, leaves suborbicular 2. *L. Nummularia*

Stems erect, leaves ovate or narrower.

Plants covered with black dots.

Inflorescence terminal racemes 1. *L. terrestris*

Inflorescence short auxiliary racemes 3. *L. thyrsoflora*

Plants not with black dots.

Secondary leaf veins evident.

Blades spreading-ciliate, ovate 4. *L. ciliata*

Blades not spreading-ciliate, lanceolate 5. *L. hybrida*

Only midveins evident, leaves linear 6. *L. quadriflora*

1. *L. terrestris* (L.) BSP.

Further characters for recognizing members of this species are the stems which branch and are covered with *elongated* spots.

Northwestern Iowa, from the following counties: Allamakee, Chickasaw, Fayette.

2. *L. Nummularia* L.

Native of Europe, and escaped from cultivation. All of our specimens are from the east half of the state, and very likely it does not occur in the west half, at least as an escape.

3. *L. thyrsoflora* L.

Stems unbranched, and the spots round.

Northern Iowa, from the following counties: Allamakee, Clay, Emmet, Fayette.

4. *L. ciliata* L.

Steironema ciliatum (L.) Raf.

Leaf blades near center of stem usually about twice longer than wide.

General in Iowa. Specimens seen from 32 counties.

5. *L. hybrida* Michx.

Steironema lanceolatum (Walt.) Gray and var. *hybridum* (Michx.)

Gray.

Collections are scattered, but it is probably general in Iowa. We have it from the following counties: Allamakee, Clayton, Decatur, Dickinson, Emmet, Greene, Hamilton, Harrison, Jasper, Lee, Muscatine, Ringgold, Story, Warren.

For the interpretation of this species, see Fernald (1937).

6. *L. quadriflora* Sims

Steironema quadriflorum (Sims) Hitchc.

L. longifolia Pursh and of certain recent works.

Northern half of Iowa.

Occasional acceptance of *L. longifolia* Pursh as the correct name doubtless is based on the work of Pax and Knuth (1905). Here Sims' epithet is given as "quadrifolia." There is an earlier *L. quadrifolia*, of Linnaeus, so of course the Sims name appeared to be a homonym.

There is also a specimen at hand of *L. punctata* L., an introduced species collected in 1939 in Lynn County. Whether it is an escape or a cultivated plant is not clear.

The Iowa specimens examined are those in the herbarium of

Iowa State College.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

IOWA STATE COLLEGE

AMES, IOWA

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Pax, F. and R. Knuth. 1905. *Primulaceae. Das Pflanzenreich* IV237:279.