

ADDENDUM TO THE VASCULAR FLORA OF NASH PRAIRIE, TEXAS, U.S.A.

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ABSTRACT

Nash Prairie is a 120 ha remnant of Texas upper coastal prairie with a previously reported native vascular plant flora of 289 species. Miscellaneous collections made over the past seven years are reported here, increasing the known native flora to 301 species.

RESUMEN

Nash Prairie es un resto de 120 ha de la pradera costera superior de Texas con una flora vascular nativa previa de 289 especies. Se citan aquí diversas colecciones realizadas en los últimos siete años, que incrementan la flora nativa conocida a 301 especies.

Nash Prairie, a 120 ha (296.5 acre) remnant of Texas upper coastal prairie in Brazoria County, remains, in my estimation, the largest and best example of this rare plant community throughout its historic range (Rosen 2007). Since publishing a checklist of vascular plants for this site that included 289 native species, two important events have occurred: 1) the tract (along with Mowotony Prairie; Rosen 2010) has been purchased by the Nature Conservancy of Texas, ensuring its conservation in perpetuity, and 2) additional collections made from 2007 through 2013 have revealed the following native species not previously reported from the site.

APOCYNACEAE

Asclepias viridiflora Raf.

Voucher specimen: infrequent and widespread in uplands of the prairie, 9 Aug 2011, D.J. Rosen 5403 with W.R. Carr (TEX).

CLUSIACEAE

Hypericum drummondii (Grev. & Hook.) Torr. & A. Gray

Voucher specimen: rare in uplands near the north hayfield road, 27 Oct 2007, D.J. Rosen 4644 (TEX).

LAMIACEAE

Monarda citriodora Cerv. ex Lag.

Voucher specimen: rare in uplands near the north hayfield road, 20 May 2010, D.J. Rosen 5013 (TEX).

Salvia azurea Michx. ex Vahl var. **grandiflora** Benth. Throughout the upper coastal prairie, I've only observed this species in high quality remnants.

Voucher specimen: rare and seemingly represented by a few individuals restricted to a single pimple mound in the southwest quadrant of the prairie, 24 Jul 2010, D.J. Rosen 5036 (TEX).

ONAGRACEAE

Oenothera lindheimeri (Engelm. & A. Gray) W.L. Wagner & Hoch. A coastal prairie endemic based on my observations and the distribution indicated by Correll and Johnston (1970).

Voucher specimen: rare and represented by a few individuals in a single location at the south-central boundary of the prairie, 9 Aug 2011, D.J. Rosen 5404 with W.R. Carr (TEX).

PHYTOLACCACEAE

Phytolacca americana L.

Voucher specimen: locally frequent in a pond recently disturbed by removal of Chinese tallow tree, 18 Oct 2013, D.J. Rosen 6157 (TEX).

POACEAE***Andropogon virginicus* L. var. *virginicus***

Voucher specimen: occasional in low-lying places in the southeast quadrant of the prairie, 18 Oct 2013, D.J. Rosen 6156 (MO, TEX).

Aristida longespica* Poir. var. *longespica

Voucher specimen: rare on pimple mounds near the center of the prairie, 6 Oct 2012, D.J. Rosen 5902 (TEX).

***Aristida oligantha* Michx.**

Voucher specimen: rare along the north hayfield road, 27 Oct, 2007, D.J. Rosen 4643 (TEX).

***Panicum hallii* Vasey subsp. *filipes* (Scribn.) Freckmann & Lelong**

Voucher specimen: rare along the north hayfield road, 18 Oct 2013, D.J. Rosen 6158 (TEX).

***Schedonnardus paniculatus* (Nutt.) Branner & Coville.** A widespread monotypic prairie and plains species of North America (Snow 2003).

Voucher specimen: rare along the south hayfield road, 1 Jul 2007, D.J. Rosen 4290 (BRIT, TEX).

PORTULACACEAE

Portulaca umbraticola* Kunth subsp. *lanceolata J.F. Matthews & Kerton. This southwestern species is described as occurring in disturbed sites and granitic and sandstone outcrops (Matthews 2003); and, in Texas, it is restricted to prairies, mesquite thickets, and saltmarshes (Correll & Johnston 1970).

Voucher specimen: occasional on the north hayfield road, 18 Oct 2013, D.J. Rosen 6159 (TEX).

The addition of the 12 species reported here increases the known native vascular flora of the Nash Prairie to 301 species. Five new native species increases the already rich grass flora to 64. New families (Phytolaccaceae and Portulacaceae) and genera (*Monarda*, *Phytolacca*, *Schedonnardus*, and *Portulaca*) also increase the numbers previously reported to 65 and 201 respectively. This report is also offered to emphasize that a floristician's work is never done. As suggested by Prater et al. (2004a), our understanding of biodiversity and the soundness of our conservation decisions are advanced by continued plant collecting. Even in well explored states and ecoregions, continued plant collecting should be encouraged and supported (Prather et al. 2004b).

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