
Planta ex hybridatione L. cylindraceae Michx. et L. squarrosae L. orta et his crescens; forma divergentiaque bractearum involucrorum etiam pubescentia caulis et foliorum et involucrorum inter parentes media.


A densely hispid Onosmodium was one of the most striking of several unfamiliar glade plants that we observed on the initial Memorial Day weekend canoe trip. As this took place a few weeks after the end of anthesis in this plant, we had to wait nearly a year to see it in flower. In the interim, its more uniform leaf pubescence seemed to rule out an identification as any of the various taxa that are considered allied to (e.g., Turner 1995) or conspecific with (e.g., Das 1965) O. molle. We were also able to determine early on that the Ketona Glade plant was not merely an extremely hispid form of the sympatric O. virginianum (L.) A. DC.: by rehydrating some blackened, withered corollas that had persisted on each, we were able to determine that the corolla lobes of the Ketona Glade plant were more broadly triangular than those of O. virginianum.

Onosmodium decipiens J. Allison, sp. nov. TYPE: Alabama: Bibb County, ca. 13.7 km NE of Centreville, “Fern Glade,” Ketona Dolomite outcrop above the right (N) bank of the Little Cahaba River, 1 Nov 1993, James R. Allison and Timothy E. Stevens 8139 (holotype, NY; isotypes: AUA, DUKE, GA, GH, JSU, MICH, MO, UNA, US, VDB). Figure 10.

Corollis flavidis et pilis longitudinis aequabilis intervenio in superficiebus ambabus foliorum sessilium O. virginianum (L.) A. DC. accedens, sed lobis corollae tantum acutis illo apicibus antherarum ad sinus corollae attingentibus ab illo recedens.

Perennial herb, (2.6) 3-6.5 (8.4) dm tall, brittle when dried, coarsely hairy, the hairs whitish or in youth drying golden. Stems 1-several arising from a rootstock, green becoming yellowish, erect or ascending, 3-8 mm in diameter, often branching above the middle, densely hispid, the straight or somewhat falcate, pustular-based hairs (2) 3-5 mm long, those at base of stem sometimes deciduous with age but leaving distinct scars. Leaves proximally clustered in a conspicuous basal rosette, within a few nodes upwards usually distinctly reduced and spaced, thereafter only very gradually reduced, sessile or sometimes tapering to a subpetiolar base, nearly always 5-nerved, nerves and blade surfaces densely hispid with hairs ca. 2 mm long that have conspicuous pustular bases which are transparent at first and then white with age, the hairs along the nerves on the lower surface oriented perpendicular to the nerves, those of the upper surface weakly antrorse-ascending, nerves of both surfaces also with shorter, antrorse hairs; rosette leaves spreading or weakly ascending, (4.5) 6-14 cm long, 0.9-2.8 cm wide, oblanceolate to spatulate, with a round or obtuse apex, withering only after anthesis; cauline leaves spreading or somewhat ascending, 4-9.5 cm long, 0.9-3.2 cm wide, oblanceolate to elliptic, obtuse or acute. Inflorescence (6) 10-31 cm long, of few to several scorpioid cymes, the cymes short and congested early in anthesis, then lengthening and loosening, ultimately (2.5) 3.9-20.5 cm long on a peduncle (0.3) 0.5-4 cm long; bracts elliptic to ovate, accrescent, to 11 mm long and 3 mm wide in flower and 8-45 mm long, 2.5-20 mm wide in fruit; pedicel to 4 mm long in flower and 10 mm long in fruit; sepals at anthesis 4.2-7.5 mm long, 0.5-1.0 mm wide, somewhat accrescent, linear-lanceolate, pubescent, abaxial hairs ascending, ca. 1 mm long, adaxial hairs appressed, 0.3-0.5 mm long, margins ciliate with hairs 1.5-1.7 mm long; corolla
Figure 10. *Onosmodium decipiens*. A. Habit, $\times \frac{1}{3}$, with details showing hairs on (top to bottom) inflorescence axis, lower leaf surface, upper leaf surface, and lower stem. B. Portion of infructescence, viewed from above, $\times \frac{1}{3}$. C. Calyx with ovary and style, $\times 5$. D. Corolla, $\times 5$. E. Two views of dissected corolla, $\times 3 \frac{1}{3}$. F. Nutlet, $\times 10$. 

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Table 1. Morphological comparison of three *Onosmodium* taxa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th><em>O. molle</em> ssp. hispidissimum</th>
<th><em>O. decipiens</em></th>
<th><em>O. virginianum</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>plant height</td>
<td>to ca. 12 dm</td>
<td>to ca. 6.5 (–8.4) dm</td>
<td>to ca. 5 dm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stem hair length</td>
<td>&gt;2.5 mm</td>
<td>&gt;2.5 mm</td>
<td>&lt;2.0 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leaf indument</td>
<td>double</td>
<td>simple</td>
<td>simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corolla color</td>
<td>white w/ greenish lobes</td>
<td>light yellow</td>
<td>light yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corolla lobes</td>
<td>nearly deltoid</td>
<td>nearly deltoid</td>
<td>acuminate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anther apices</td>
<td>at corolla sinuses</td>
<td>at sinuses</td>
<td>below sinuses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nutlet base</td>
<td>constricted</td>
<td>unconstricted</td>
<td>unconstricted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.3–11.0 mm long, pale yellow, lobes triangular, 2.1–3.0 mm long, 1.1–2.0 mm wide at the base, externally pubescent with hairs of two lengths, the longer hairs 1.2–2.0 mm long, usually straight or apically undulate or curled, the shorter ca. 0.5 mm long and extending down to the middle of the corolla; anthers 2.0–2.5 (2.7) mm long, apices reaching approximately to the corolla-sinuses; style 12–17 mm long. Fruit an ovoid nutlet, (1.8) 2.1–2.8 (3) mm long, lustrous white, often with brownish tinges in age, sparsely to abundantly pitted, tapered gradually to the truncate basal scar, scar (0.8) 1–1.2 mm across. Chromosome number unknown.

Flowering April–early May, fruiting June–August.

English Name: Deceptive Marbleseed.


Among the endemics, only *Erigeron strigosus* var. dolomiticola and the new *Onosmodium* are characteristic elements of even the smallest Ketona Glades. While the *Erigeron* is absent only from a single glade near the western periphery of the glade “archipelago,” *O. decipiens* is absent only from the very easternmost glade. Like the *Erigeron*, *O. decipiens* is a plant of full or partial sunlight, found on the open glade or sometimes along edges.

The literature (Gandoger 1918) contains a taxon named *Onosmodium alabamense*, described by the notorious Michel Gandoger (1850–1926), who, in the words of Correll and Johnston (1979), “named thousands of unacceptable species.” From the scanty descriptive information provided, it would seem that Gandoger’s plant, with its “stylus inclusus” is not an *Onosmodium* at all, at least in the modern, post Mackenzie (1905) sense. The “elongati lineares” corolla lobes further disqualify Gandoger’s name from possible application to the Bibb County plants.

*Onosmodium decipiens* exhibits characters alternately either of *O. molle* Michx. ssp. *hispidissimum* (Mackenzie) Boivin or of *O. virginianum*. Table 1 summarizes the principal differences among these three taxa of *Onosmodium*. Both leaf indument and maximum cauline hair length are ideal characters as they can be used throughout the growing season. The double indument of the leaf surfaces of *O. molle* ssp. *hispidissimum*, a shared trait of the several subspecies of *O. molle* (Das 1965), consists of short, appressed hairs beneath the longer, more spreading ones.

The new *Onosmodium* is apparently the only Ketona Glade endemic other than *Dalea cahaba* to have been collected prior to 1992 (see paratypes, above). Specimens at VDB from Robert Kral’s 1970 and 1972 Bibb County collections, determined by him as *O. hispidissimum*
Mackenzie, were examined by Jerry and Carol Baskin in 1982. They annotated the specimens as “Onosmodium cf. virginianum (L.) A. DC.”, recognizing that while they could not be taxon hispidissimum, they also did not fit comfortably within O. virginianum. The specific epithet, decipiens, is an acknowledgment of the plant’s “deceiving” morphology.

While the closely related Onosmodium virginianum is occasional in rocky places in the vicinity of the Ketona Glades, it never replaces O. decipiens as a component of the open glade. We found both species in close proximity at only a single site, with O. decipiens occupying the more exposed habitat of the open glade and O. virginianum limited to the glade-woodland ecotone. At this site we found plants of intermediate morphology, representing hybrids and putative backcrosses (A. and S. 8231, GH, NY, UNA, US). Unlike the situation with Liatris oligocephala, O. decipiens is too abundant locally, and hybridization with it seemingly too rare, for it to be threatened with genetic “swamping” by its more widespread congener.

Another conspicuous and unfamiliar species observed on glades during the initial canoe expedition was a leafy-stemmed, opposite-leaved herbaceous plant, clearly still some weeks from flowering, whose stem and leaves were so densely beset with gland-tipped hairs that they gave it a sticky feel. Its overall look was suggestive of a Silphium, but consultation of readily available literature (e.g., Perry 1937, Cronquist 1980) gave no indication that any taxon so copiously glandular occurred in that genus. In a few weeks the plants began to flower and both their generic placement (Silphium) and their distinctiveness were manifest.


Species a congeneris combinatione capitulorum radiis vulgo tredecim cum indumento denso pro parte maxima glandulifero caulium et foliorum et involucrorum haud aegre distinguitur.

Perennial herb, fleshy-rooted from a short rhizome or nearly erect caudex, vegetative portion densely pubescent throughout with a mixture of long, stipitate-glandular hairs and mostly shorter, pointed, eglandular hairs, somewhat resinous-aromatic. Stems 1–several, (3.6) 8–15 (18) dm tall, unbranched except for inflorescence, (4) 5.5–10 (11) mm thick at base, finely sulcate, terete, yellowish green or sometimes maroon-tinted, especially near the base, nodes with persistent leaves at anthesis (4) 6 or 7 (10) below the branching of the inflorescence. Leaves opposite or rarely alternate, very rarely 3 at a node, dull, upper surface dark yellowish green, lower surface paler, margins ciliate; the lowest (at anthesis) the largest, ovate or lanceolate, larger blades 15–22 (24) cm long, 7–12 cm wide, coarsely and shallowly toothed, particularly toward the base, with winged petioles 6–15 (16) cm long, pubescent and ciliate like the blade (often proximally with longer, eglandular hairs); leaves upwardly gradually reduced in size, with shorter and more broadly winged petioles, becoming sessile and entire and grading into ovate or lanceolate (–broadly elliptic) bracts in the inflorescence. Inflorescence of (1) several to many (>30) heads in an open, broad (to 36 cm) panicle, the branches stiffish, the central peduncle of a main branch 6–13 (15) cm long (laterals shorter), straight (or curved early in anthesis and the heads nodding), bracteolate at the base or sometimes above the middle; involucral shallowly campanulate, 3–4.3 cm* broad, the phyllaries in about 4 series, mostly 19–23, 11–19 mm long and 5.5–11 mm wide, membranaceous, rather loosely overlapping, ribbed proximally, the outermost usually the longest, ascending or sometimes (especially those of the larger, central head of an inflorescence-branch), spreading and with margins and tips somewhat recurving, pubescent and ciliate like the leaves, lanceolate and acute, inwardly progressively reduced and passing through ovate to elliptic and obtuse and then oblanceolate with a broadly rounded apex, the innermost ca. 8 mm × 2 mm, the pubescence progressively more confined to the distal,

* Floral measurements are of early and mid-season heads; in this as with many plants, flowers are often reduced in size late in the season.