



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Scutellaria thieretii Shinnery
Thieret's Skullcap



Identification: Annual with a taproot. Stem solitary or much less commonly several, simple or freely branched, 7-65 cm tall, densely pubescent with mixed short- to medium-long (0.2-1.0 mm), glandless (or with inconspicuously gland-tipped) hairs, these either straight and spreading at right angles or slightly retrorsely curved. Lower leaves (soon withering) relatively short-petioled, the petioles 3-10 mm long, shorter than the blades; blades oblong-ovate to oblong-elliptic, 6-12 mm wide by 12-25 mm long, obtuse, shallowly crenate or subentire, the base widely tapered or subtruncate but with wide V-attachment to the petiole, rather strongly pinnately veined, rather densely pubescent on both surfaces, the hairs on the upper surface erect, those on the lower surface suberect to low-spreading or subappressed. Middle and upper leaves (floral bracts) progressively short-petioled to sessile, with gradually reduced, narrower, more entire blades, the uppermost prominent, extending to $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the flowers or beyond. Flowers borne in upper $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{6}$ of plant. Calyx and corolla densely pubescent outside with short, erect hairs. Calyx in flower 2.5-4.0 mm long. Corolla 7-14 mm long; tube white, limb purple-blue, lower lip with purple-blotched white center. Mericarps dark brown to black with 4 lobes.

Key ID characters:

- Annual, 0.7-6.5 dm in height, with a taproot.
- Lower leaves, soon withering, are relatively short petioled.
- Flowers on upper portion of plant (upper $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{6}$).
- Calyx and corolla densely pubescent on outside.
- Calyx with a distinct protuberance, ridge, or helmet-like projection on the upper side of the tube.
- Corolla 7-14 mm long; tube white, limb purple-blue, lower lip with white center.
- Fruit of 4 nutlets.

Habitat: Open fields in soils of sand and shell.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Lamiaceae (Labiatae). There are about 10 taxa within the genus *Scutellaria* found in LA.

Status:

Wetland: FACW - Facultative Wetland
Global: G2Q - Imperiled (questionable taxonomy)
State: S2 - Imperiled



Shell Beach

Range: Louisiana and Texas.

Soils: Sand and fine shell.

Similar Species: Of the species of *Scutellaria* represented in LA (*S. cardiophylla*, *S. drummondii*, *S. elliptica*, *S. incana*, *S. integrifolia*, *S. lateriflora*, *S. ovata*, *S. parvula*, *S. racemosa*, and *S. thieretii*), *S. thieretii* is most easily confused with *S. drummondii*. However, *S. drummondii* can be distinguished most readily by the long-petioled lower leaves, the marked reduction of the uppermost leaves and floral bracts much shorter than the flowers.



S. parvula



S. drummondii, Photo by L. Urbatsch

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss, and limited natural range.

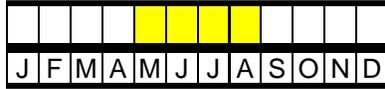
Known Distribution in Louisiana:

Allen, Cameron, Iberia, Vermillion

Dates of Natural Heritage Program Observations:

No records in database.

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

References :

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