



Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Natural Heritage Program

Polygala hookeri Torr. & Gray
Hooker's Milkwort

Identification: Plant 1-3 dm in height, stem glabrous. Leaves, at least at some nodes, in whorls. Racemes loosely flowered, obconical apically, to 6 cm long fully developed, their stalks 1-3 (-6) cm long. Bracts ovate, short-acuminate apically, about 1 mm long. Flowers lavender or similar variant, their stalks 2 mm long. Petaloid sepals somewhat dilated on each side basally (subhastate), oblongish above the base, acuminate apically, 3 mm long. Seed oblong-obovate, black, plump, sparsely short-pubescent, 1 mm long, the aril with its 2 elongate lobes appressed against one side for nearly its full length.

Key ID characters:

- At least some of the leaves in whorls.
- Racemes loosely flowered, obconical apically.
- Flowers lavender in color.
- Seeds black, plump, and with an aril.

Habitat: Pine savannas and flatwoods.

Taxonomic Comments: This species is a member of the family Polygalaceae. There are 16 species of the genus *Polygala* known to occur in LA.

Status:

Wetland: FACW+ - Facultative Wetland

Global: G3 - Vulnerable

State: S1 - Critically Imperiled



Longleaf Pine Savannah

Range: Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.

Soils:

Similar Species: This species is most similar to *P. cruciata* in general features, especially because of habit, leaf orientation, and flower color. However, *P. cruciata* has compact racemes that are ovate to oblong apically and the plant is usually more robust.



P. lutea



P. polygama



P. cruciata, Photo by L. Urbatsch

Reason for Rarity: Habitat loss and fire exclusion.

Known Distribution in Louisiana:

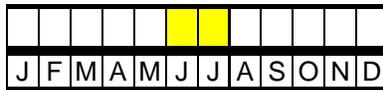
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Dates of Natural Heritage Program

Observations:

1978, 1991, 1997

Best Time for Viewing this Species:



Distribution in Louisiana

References :

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