Update of *Praxelis clematidea*, a New Exotic in Florida

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Praxelis clematidea Native Distribution

Estimated Native Range

- Peru
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Paraguay
- Argentina
Praxelis clematidea Exotic Invasion

Adapted from Stuart Allen 2013. Weed Futures. http://weedfutures.net/
Description

- Family: Asteraceae
- 13 species in the *Praxelis* genus; all native to South America
- Some individuals appear to overwinter as above-ground perennials (Abbott et al. 2008)
- Herb or somewhat woody at the base (suffrutescent)
- Opposite leaves with irregularly toothed margins
- Bluish purple flowers in small clusters (discoid)
- Hairy Stems
- Very strong odor like cat urine when crushed
Artificial Key to Distinguish *Praxelis clematidea* from Similar Genera in North America North of Mexico

1. Receptacle conical (usually strongly so).
   2. Pappus lacking, coroniform (flat scales fused into a crown-like structure), or of 5–6 flattened scales (sometimes 5–6 tapering setae in *A. conyzoides*). __________________________________________________________________________ Ageratum
   2. Pappus of capillary bristles; bristles more than 20.
      3. Bristles ca. 30; florets 35–70+; phyllaries ca. 25, subequal, persistent ______________________________________________________________________ Conoclinium
      3. Bristles ca. 40; florets 25–30; phyllaries 15–25, unequal, deciduous (absence apparent in fruit) ________________ Praxelis

1. Receptacle flat to slightly convex (rarely very shallowly conical in *Fleischmannia*).
   4. Phyllaries deciduous, 18–65, unequal; bristles ca. 40; florets 6–75 __________________________________________________________________________ Chromolaena
   4. Phyllaries persistent, 20–30, unequal (to rarely subequal); bristles 20–40 rarely 0 or 5), florets (10–)15–25(–50) ________________ Fleischmannia

Adapted from Abott et al. 2008
Timeline of Discovery in Florida

• Orange County
  • July 26, 2006, collected by LeAnn White
  • July 17, 2007, collected by J. Richard Abbot with Tim Burns and Melissa Clark
  • July 17, 2007, collected by J. Richard Abbot with Melissa Clark
  • March 8, 2008, collected by J. Richard Abbot with Kurt & Julie Neubig
  • September 10, 2008, collected by J. Richard Abbot

• Abbot et al. describes species in *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 2(1): 621 – 626. 2008

• *P. clematidea* included in the 3rd edition of Wunderlin and Hanson’s *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* published in 2011

• Lake County - December 6, 2012, collected by A. Gardner and S. Smith

• Hardee County - April 17, 2013, collected by Lavonda Rogers

• Polk County - November 18, 2013, collected by C. Cook

• Manatee County - December 2, 2013, By A. Gardner
Control

• Almost nothing is known about control methods in Florida (or anywhere else for that matter)

• Herbicides suggested in the literature include Glyphosate, Fluroxypyr, Metsulfuron-methyl, and a mixture of 2,4-D and picloram. However, there is no information available regarding the effectiveness of any of these

• 3% glyphosate mixture used at Hilochee Wildlife Management Area has been effective, but *Praxelis* response is similar to natalgrass—easy to kill, but the population quickly rebounds from seed. Multiple treatments needed

• Also noted on Hilochee WMA: *Praxelis* grows aggressively from seed following prescribed burns—invaded areas previously treated for natalgrass
Vigilance is Key!

- Be on the lookout for *Praxelis*—seems to prefer disturbed sites especially those in proximity to orange groves
- Inspect any plants that resemble *Praxelis*
  - (i.e. *Ageratum, Conoclinium, Chromolaena, and Fleischmannia*)
- Submit specimens from new counties to herbaria for new county record vouchers


USDA, ARS, National Genetic Resources Program. Germplasm Resources Information Network - (GRIN) [Online Database]. National Germplasm Resources Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland. URL: http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/html/genform.pl (11 February 2014)


Thank you!
Any Questions?