
Limnobium, an Additional Genus to the Flora of Oklahoma

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On October 12, 1957, on a field trip in the Vascular Aquatics course led by Dr. U. T. Waterfall, some interesting looking vegetative plants were found growing in shallow water and on mud banks along a swampy pool about 5 miles south of Tom in the southeastern corner of McCurtain County, in southeastern Oklahoma. The leaves of these plants superficially resembled, in shape at least, those of *Nymphoides*. No flowers could be found on any of the specimens seen, so vegetative specimens were brought back and raised as floating aquatics for a period of several months. In July following the original collection, one of the plants in culture produced one pistillate and two staminate flowers, thus making possible the positive identification of it as *Limnobium spongia* (Bosc.) Steud. This identification was later verified by Dr. Waterfall, and the specimen was deposited in the Oklahoma State University Herbarium as Langdon 190.

Checks were made to determine if this plant had previously been reported from Oklahoma. Fernald (1950) listed the western limits of distribution as Texas to southeastern Missouri, but no indication was given as to the possibility of its range extending into Oklahoma. Muenscher (1944) gave its distribution as along the South Atlantic coast and the lower Mississippi Valley, with a map showing extreme eastern Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas (probably eastern), southeastern Missouri, and other areas farther east. Waterfall (1952) did not list this genus as having been reported from the state. Since no previous reports from Oklahoma could be found, it was concluded that this was an addition to our known flora.

LITERATURE CITED

- Fernald, M. L. 1950. Gray's manual of botany. New York: American Book Co.
- Muenscher, W. C. 1944. Aquatic plants of the United States. Ithaca, N.Y.: Comstock Publishing Co., Inc.
- Waterfall, U. T. 1952. A catalogue of the flora of Oklahoma. Stillwater: The Research Foundation, Oklahoma State University.