

OPHIOGLOSSUM CROTALOPHOROIDES WALT. IN TENNESSEE

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ABSTRACT

The bulbous adder's-tongue, *Ophioglossum crotalophoroides* Walt., was collected for the first time in Tennessee.

INTRODUCTION

Extensive searching by Thomas for *Ophioglossum crotalophoroides* at several locations in southwest Tennessee in April of 1971 and 1972 was unsuccessful. However, on April 29, 1973, Mr. Marx found two small sterile specimens of this fern in a Memphis cemetery. Each specimen had only one small leaf and the rootstock was not collected. No other specimens were seen.

On May 15, 1973 the authors returned to the same site and collected a total of fourteen plants, eight of which were fertile. The plants were much smaller than those growing in Louisiana. They were completely hidden in a thick sod of blue grass, *Poa pratensis* L., and the authors collected them by lying prone on the sod and carefully separating the grass sprig by sprig. This collecting lasted about three hours. *Alchemilla microcarpa* Boiss. and Reut. was the only common herb in the blue grass sod.

On the following day the authors also collected bulbous adder's-tongue in a lawn of a church in Whitehaven, Tennessee.

The citations are:

TENNESSEE:

Shelby Co. Memorial Park Cemetery near Yates Road Entrance between the graves of Washington C. Jolly and Virgil W. White, Marx 945, 29 April 1973 and Thomas and Marx 34679, 15 May 1973.

Shelby Co. Lawn of Broadway Baptist Church on Shelby Drive, Whitehaven, Tenn. Thomas and Marx 34735, 16 May 1973.

A line drawing of two plants from the May 15 collection is included as Figure 1. One sheet from this collection is on deposit in the University of Tennessee Herbarium in Knoxville and the other specimens are in the Northeast Louisiana University Herbarium.

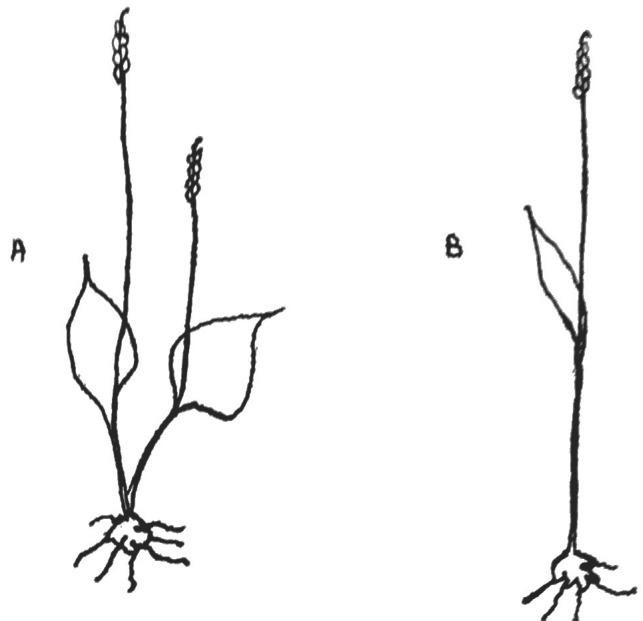


FIG. 1: *Ophioglossum crotalophoroides* from Memorial Park Cemetery in Memphis (drawn by Peggy Jones)

The senior author has also collected *Ophioglossum crotalophoroides* in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana (Thomas, 1971), Mississippi (Thomas and Rogers, in press), Alabama, and Georgia. It has also been collected in Florida and South Carolina (Wherry, 1964). The small size and the scarcity of the plants in Memphis perhaps indicates that this is one of the fringes of its range.

LITERATURE CITED

- Thomas, R. D. 1971. Bulbous Adder's-tongue common in Louisiana. *American Fern Journal*. 61:39-41.
Thomas, R. D. and K. E. Rogers. 1973. Notes on some Ophioglossaceae in Mississippi. *American Fern Journal*, in press.
Wherry, E. T. 1964. *The Southern fern guide*. Doubleday and Company, Inc., New York.