

**ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF PLANTS OF THE GORGES
AT FALL CREEK FALLS**

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ABSTRACT

Six taxa are added to the list of plants known to be present in the gorges of the Fall Creek Falls State Park. They are *Dryopteris Goldiana* (Hook.) Gray, *Iris cristata* Ait., *Cypripedium acaule* Ait., *Tipularia discolor* (Pursh) Nutt., *Asarum Ruthii* Ashe, and *Delphinium tricornis* Michx. forma *albiflora* Millsp.

INTRODUCTION

An annotated list of the plants of the system of gorges at the Fall Creek Falls State Park was published in 1955 (Caplenor 1955). The list was prepared as a result of a vegetational analysis, and no attempt was made to seek out and catalog an inclusive list of taxa. To the present time no such study has been attempted. Interest in the vegetation of the gorges of the Cumberland Plateau has steadily increased, partly as a result of public fascination with wild areas and partly because these gorges have become recognized as refugia for numbers of northern taxa. Literature on botanical aspects of the region is still sparse. Much of the work that has been done (Clark 1966, Safley 1970, Sherman 1958) has not been published. Some that has been published has not included the herbaceous taxa (Quarterman, Turner, and Hemmerly 1972) or has included only the most obvious or indicative taxa (Braun 1950). In view of all of these considerations, it seemed appropriate to make available a list of taxa which have been observed in the gorges since the publication in 1955. A complete survey of the flora of the gorges of the whole plateau area needs to be made. Information on grasses, sedges, and composites is particularly incomplete. Since all of the species in the addendum are rare in the particular situations, none were collected as whole specimens.

Nomenclature follows Fernald (1950).

ADDITIONAL TAXA

POLYPODIACEAE

Dryopteris Goldiana (Hook.) Gray Rare and scattered, Mixed Mesophytic Community.

IRIDACEAE

Iris cristata Ait. Scattered patches near Cane Creek. Mixed Mesophytic Community.

ORCHIDACEAE

Cypripedium acaule Ait. Five or more flowering plants of this taxon were seen during the spring of 1977 south of the confluence of Cane and Piney Creeks, Mixed Mesophytic Community. These are almost surely newly adventive to the site since they are such obvious plants and since none had ever before been encountered in the gorges at Fall Creek Falls. They are abundant on the undissected plateau surrounding the gorges.

Tipularia discolor (Pursh) Nutt. Rare, Mixed Mesophytic Community.

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

Asarum Ruthii Ashe A few plants of this taxon are located on the southeast slope of the ridge extending northeasterly from the overlook above the confluence of Cane and Piney Creeks. Mixed Mesophytic Community, dry habitat.

RANUNCULACEAE

Delphinium tricornis Michx. forma *albiflora* Millsp. In the 1955 report *D. tricornis* was reported as "Rare. Mostly present in rich mixed mesophytic stands only." In the spring of 1977, the taxon, including the white form, was one of the most noticeable plants on the northeast-facing slope of the Cane Creek Gorge in the best developed Mixed Mesophytic Community.

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