Mulberry weed, *Fatoua villosa* (Thunb.) Nakai, also known as hairy crabweed, is a warm temperate annual widespread in Asia and introduced and rapidly spreading in North America. It first appeared in North America in Louisiana, where Thieret (1964) noted “Dr. Joseph Ewan of Tulane University informs me that the plant has been found as a weed in New Orleans for at least 15 years.” This implies that it entered North America at least as early as the late 1940s. Thieret comments that “seedlings were frequent on the campus [of the University of Southwestern Louisiana] this past spring, even following the severe winter of 1962–63, when the temperature in LaFayette dropped to 15 degrees F.” This suggested, somewhat ominously, that the plant could become weedy over a much larger area than the extreme south. Indeed, it was reported from Florida in 1974 (DuQuesnay 1974) and, by 1975, it had been also found in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina (Massey 1975). In 1977, perhaps belatedly, it was listed as an economically important foreign weed that potentially could be a problem in the United States (Reed 1977). The distribution of *Fatoua* as mapped and reported in Flora North America now encompasses all of the southeast, including Texas, and north to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, and West Virginia (Wunderlin 1997). It has also been reported from California (Sanders 1996), Washington (Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board 2001), and is now known from southern Missouri (Yatskievych & Raveill 2001). *Fatoua* has recently also been reported from even closer to Michigan, as Vincent (1993) noted its occurrence in south central Ohio.

Still, it was a surprise to see *Fatoua* in southern Michigan. Stopping at a rest area along I-94 west of Jackson (Jackson County), I noticed *Fatoua* locally abundant in some ornamental plantings surrounding the buildings. In some small areas, the plants were so dense as to be a solid ground cover, and hundreds of plants were present.

*Fatoua* is becoming a problem weed in containerized nursery stock (Neal, 1998), and it likely is spread widely and rapidly by planting of containerized stock. The Michigan station was not likely a new introduction that year, as it was most frequent in an area of perennial ground cover that had obviously been planted at least several years before and the plant presumably had been building up its population for several years at least to reach such numbers.

Morphologically, *Fatoua villosa* somewhat resembles a seedling white mulberry (*Morus alba* L). The alternate leaves are roughly similar in arrangement
and overall appearance. They are however, finely hispid, and the general aspect of the plant also strikes one as nettle–like. The axillary flowers are arrayed in greenish to purple-tinged, loose, hemispherical heads, giving an unusual appearance to the plant. Illustrations are found in Wunderlin (1997) and photos on the internet at www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/weeds/mweed1.html.

Specimen Citation:

**MICHIGAN.** Jackson Co.: Rest area on S side of I-94 ca. 0.8 mi W of Business 94 exit on west side of Jackson, SE ¼ sect. 25, T2S R2W, North Lat. 42° 16′ 15″ West Long. 84° 25′ 40″ (from map). Weed in perennial ground cover planting (low junipers) in beds around rest area building, Sept. 25, 2001, A.A. Reznicek et. al. 11300 (MICH, MSC, MU, and numerous duplicates to be distributed).

LITERATURE CITED


REVIEWS

**DISTRIBUTION AND HABITAT DESCRIPTIONS OF WISCONSIN LAKE PLANTS.** Stanley A. Nichols. 1999. Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Bulletin 96. xi + 266 pages + two unnumbered pages at the back; metal-ring binding with a sturdy plastic cover. $15 + $3.25 postage and handling, available from Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 3817 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705. Telephone orders at 608. 262. 1705, with V or MC only. www.uwex.edu/wgnhs/, but no sales via that site.

This is not a taxonomic monograph. The names are simply taken from Gleason & Cronquist, ed. 2, 1991. There are no keys. There are no descriptions. There are 107 species treated, by my rough count, in alphabetical order by Latin name, and nearly all are accompanied by a faithful and well-reproduced draw-