NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS

Michigan

*Mikaniascandens* (L.) Willd.
Asteraceae
Climbing Hempweed

**Previous knowledge.** *Mikaniascandens* is a vine found in wetlands of the eastern United States (USDA). It ranges from Florida to Maine and west to Texas and is considered a noxious weed in Hawaii. It was first reported from Michigan by C.D. McLouth (1896). The plant was brought to McLouth’s attention in 1894, and that September, he observed it growing in the wetlands near the mouth of the Muskegon River in what is now Muskegon State Game Area (MSGA), Muskegon County. Inquiries to locals in the area allowed McLouth to conclude that *M. scandens* had been present since at least the mid-nineteenth century. This has remained the only report of *M. scandens* in Michigan up to the present (Reznicek et al. 2011). The nearest known populations are about 200 kilometers to the south in northern Indiana (Swink & Wilhelm 1994). Attempts to relocate this species in the areas described by McLouth have been unsuccessful, leading to this species being designated as extirpated from Michigan (Reznicek et al. 2011).

**Significance of the Report.** This is a significant find as this is the first report of this species in Michigan since it was originally reported by McLouth in 1896. I observed three populations, all roughly within 2 kilometers of each other. Only one of the populations was surveyed and there appeared to be about 50 healthy individuals setting seed at the coordinates provided on the collection label. The other populations were in remote areas and occurred in dense *Cephalanthus occidentalis* thickets and only a few individuals were observed at each location. More thorough surveys are needed in the areas between Cedar Creek and the Muskegon River to accurately describe the condition of the metapopulation.

**Diagnostic characters.** *Mikaniascandens* is a climbing herb of floodplains (Fig. 1), often twining up *Cephalanthus occidentalis* to heights of 3.0 m and occasionally forming mats over *Phalaris arundinacea* and *Leersia oryzoides*. The leaves are oppositely arranged at swollen nodes, deeply cordate, palmately veined, and toothed. The flowers are small, pale-purple to white, and form loose corymbs born on axillary peduncles (MNFI 2007). Collected specimens were observed to be blooming throughout September. *M. scandens* may be mistaken for *Ageratina altissima* as the flowers are somewhat similar. However, *M. scandens* is a vine whereas *A. altissima* is a stout upright herb.

**Specimen Citation.** *Mikaniascandens* (L.) Willd. Muskegon Co., Michigan: Muskegon State Game Area. 5 Miles SSW of Twin Lake. Lat. & Long.: 43° 17′ 34.2 N, 86° 07′ 41.1′′W. Between Cedar Creek and the Muskegon River along the margins of openings in the *Acer saccharinum* dominated floodplain forest.
Primarily climbing on *Cephalanthus occidentalis* and *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. There seems to be a strong association of *M. scandens* and *C. occidentalis*. Also found occasionally forming mats atop *Phalaris arundinacea*. Highly localized but somewhat abundant. The majority of individuals observed were fruiting and seen at the time of collection, 3 October 2012. Jesse M. Lincoln; (MICH).

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LITERATURE CITED


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