U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Correll's False Dragonhead

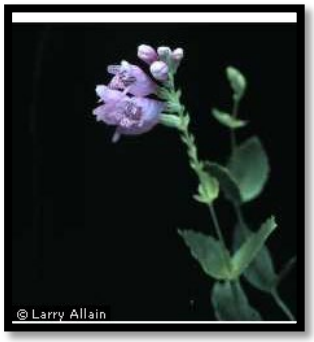
Arlington, Texas Ecological Services Field Office

Correll's False Dragonhead
Physostegia correllii

Correll's false dragonhead
Photos: Jason Singhurst, TPWD

Description

Correll's false dragonhead (*Physostegia correllii*) is a rare, flowering plant native to Texas and Louisiana, characterized by purple-pink flowers and dark green leaves. It belongs to the mint family and is found in forested and herbaceous wetland habitats. There are 12 false dragonhead species, also called obedient plants (genus *Physostegia*), that are native to North America. The common name, "false dragonhead", comes from its resemblance to dragonhead plants (*Dracocephalum spp.*), which includes 70 species identified by their colorful "heads of dragons" shaped flowers. The plant is typically about 1 meter or more in height and tends to grow parallel to the water's edge.



Physostegia correllii
Photo: Larry Allain, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=TRTE3

Distribution

Correll's false dragonhead is found in central and southern Texas, coastal Louisiana, and northern Mexico. The plant has been collected or noted in 6-10 counties in Texas and 4 parishes in Louisiana. Correll's false dragonhead has been observed frequently in Travis County and along Lady Bird Lake in Texas.

Life History

Correll's false dragonhead is a perrenial plant and surives multiple growing seasons. It blooms in the late summer and early fall. Obedient plants are pollinated by bees and spread underneath the soil with rhizomes (underground stems that produce root systems).

Habitat

Correll's false dragonhead has been observed growing in the riparian zone (transition between terrestrial and aquatic habitat), along streams and rivers. It has also been found in areas of human disturbance such as irrigation ditches or roadsides. The plant grows in silty sediment, gravel, bedrock, sand, concrete, or decomposed organic compounds. The most commonly associated riparian trees are bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum)* and green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica).*

Conservation

Correll's false dragonhead is impacted by disturbances such as mowing, herbicides, and riparian habitat loss. Non-native plant species grow densely and overcrowd the obedient plant by reducing the amount of sunlight available to the soil surface. Correll's false dragonhead is ranked as a G2 (imperiled) by NatureServe and it was also included in a 2011 petition for listing of 404 species under the Endangered Species Act, and is now under review.

For Further Information:

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services Field Office
2005 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Suite 140
Arlington, Texas 76006

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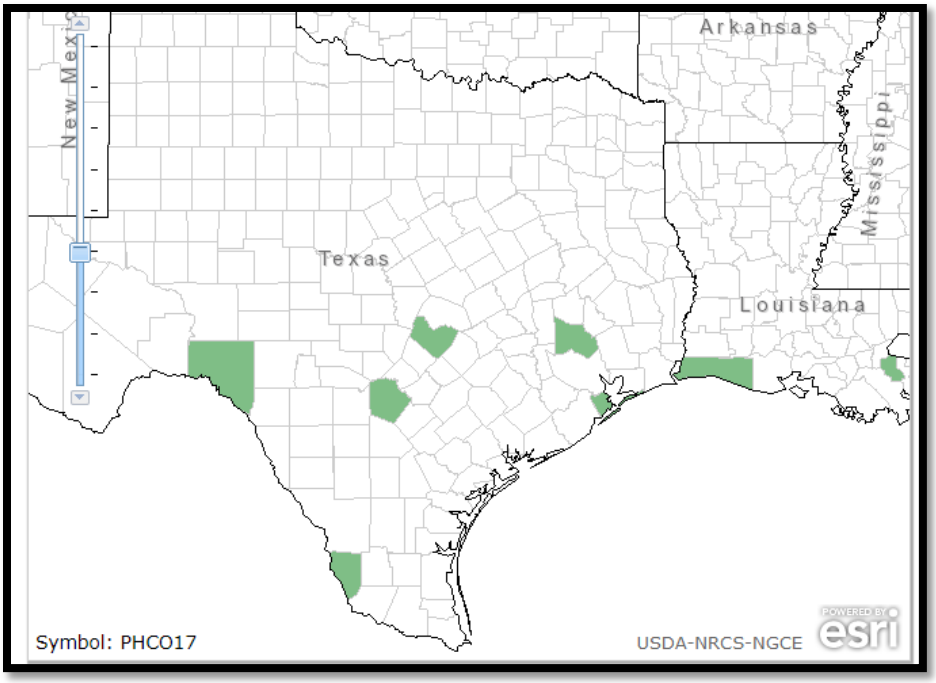

Counties with native *Physostegia correllii*
Photo: U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=PHCO17

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