

States, only by *R. fueginus*, *R. obtusifolius*, and *R. pulcher*. The teeth of *R. fueginus* are longer than the width of the valves; those of *R. obovatus* and *R. paraguayensis* are shorter. *Rumex paraguayensis* differs from *R. obtusifolius* and *R. pulcher* by its smaller valves (only 2.5-3 mm long) and by its not possessing well-separated verticels of flowers. *Rumex obovatus* is reminiscent of both *R. obtusifolius* and *R. pulcher*, which are, however, allegedly perennial species. Typically each of the valves of *R. obovatus* bears a grain; usually only one valve of *R. obtusifolius* does so, at least among almost all North American specimens of it. Verticels of *R. obovatus* contain more flowers (20-50) than those of *R. pulcher* (10-15) and are larger in fruit (ca. 13-16 mm vs. 10 mm or less).

In Louisiana, *R. obovatus* has been collected in Cameron (JWT 19819, 29363), Jefferson Davis (JWT 26359), St. Bernard (*R. J. Lemaire* 320, misidentified as *R. obtusifolius*), St. Tammany (*Lemaire* 1040, misidentified as *R. obtusifolius*), and Tangipahoa (JWT 19689) parishes; *R. paraguayensis*, only in St. Tammany Parish (JWT 27002). *Rumex obovatus* almost certainly occurs in coastal Texas—one of my Cameron Parish collections was made within 150 feet of the Texas border, there the Sabine River.

Voucher specimens are on file in the herbaria of the University of Southwestern Louisiana and Southern Methodist University. My collections were made in connection with the Louisiana Flora Project, supported by a grant (GB-4671) from the National Science Foundation.—*John W. Thieret, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette 70501.*

BAPTISIA LACTEA (RAFINESQUE) THIERET, COMB. NOV. (LEGUMINOSAE).—Based on *Dolichos lacteus* Rafinesque, Fl. Ludov. 103. 1817. *Baptisia leucantha* Torrey et Gray, Fl. N. Amer. 1: 385. 1840. Rafinesque's description leaves no doubt as to the identity of his *Dolichos lacteus*. The *Flora Ludoviciana* is essentially an abridged, Latin and English translation of the "Flore Louisianaise" that is part (Vol. 3, pp. 311-538) of C. C. Robin's *Voyages dans l'Interieur de la Louisiane* (1807). The protologue composed by Rafinesque was drawn up not only from the brief description in the "Flore" but also from a fuller account of the plant given by Robin on pages 267-268 of volume 3 of *Voyages*. It is probable that Robin saw *Baptisia lactea* during his journey to "the country of the Atakapas," the prairie region of Louisiana, where the plant is a frequent one.—*John W. Thieret, University of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette 70501.*

TRIFOLIUM VESICULOSUM (LEGUMINOSAE) IN MISSISSIPPI AND LOUISIANA: NEW TO NORTH AMERICA.—A strange clover, conspicuous because of its large heads, was collected by me in Louisiana this past summer and was tentatively identified as *Trifolium vesiculosum* Savi. During a visit to Southern Methodist University, I mentioned the find to Dr. Shinnars, who promptly showed me a Mississippi specimen of the same species that



Thieret, John W. 1969. "BAPTISIA LACTEA (RAFINESQUE) THIERET, COMB. NOV. (LEGUMINOSAE)." *SIDA, contributions to botany* 3, 446–446.

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