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COMMENTS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF *BOTRYCHIUM LUNARIOIDES* (OPHIOGLOSSACEAE) IN TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

*Botrychium lunarioides* (Michx.) Sw. (Ophioglossaceae) is now known to be widespread and abundant throughout the eastern portion of Texas.

KEY WORDS: Ophioglossaceae, *Botrychium*, Texas, biogeography

Until recently, *Botrychium lunarioides* (Michx.) Sw. (Ophioglossaceae) was considered to be a species of the coastal plain of the southeastern United States whose westernmost distribution was known to extend to extreme east Texas (Thomas 1979; Thomas, *et al.* 1981; Wagner & Wagner 1993). In 1996, Do, *et al.* reported ten additional county records in the central portion of the Post Oak Savannah of Texas, thereby extending the known distribution of the species up to 273 km to the west. Additional field studies during 1996 have yielded nineteen new county records for the species in Texas (Figure 1). These new reports are primarily from the Post Oak Savannah, Pineywoods, and Blackland Prairies of northeast Texas and from the southern portion of the Post Oak Savannah. The most notable occurrence of the species is at Lake Bastrop State Recreation Area, Bastrop County, about 45 km ESE of Austin, which extends both the western and southern known limits of the species. The present distribution confirms that the plant is much more widespread and abundant within the state than previously known and that it may be expected to occur in nearly all counties of the Pineywoods and the Post Oak Savannah. Although the habitat of the very southern portion of the Post Oak Savannah (Caldwell, Gonzalez, Guadalupe, and Wilson counties), seems to be favorable for the species, an attempt to locate it
Figure 1. Documented distribution of Botrychium lunarioides in Texas.
there was unsuccessful. This failure may be related to the extreme drought in that area in the late winter and early spring of 1996, which has been mentioned by Thomas, et al. (1981) as a factor that may cause the species to remain dormant.


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LITERATURE CITED