

## Some Taxonomic Problems with *Viburnum dentatum* and Observations of *Blephilia ciliata*

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What seemed to be a mere identification has now become a nomenclatorial problem. Three years of waiting became fruitful when a shrub found in a black gum association finally flowered. Opposite leaves pointed to the Caprifoliaceae and the inflorescence determined it to be a species of *Viburnum* known as Arrow-wood or Northern Arrow-wood.

The shrub may be described as typical for the *Viburnum* group except for the leaves which are critical in identification. This particular species is "variable in morphology and habitat" (8), a characteristic which further complicates the already overtaxed problem of nomenclature.

Leaf description is as follows: exstipulate, lanceolate ovate to round, sharply acute to short acuminate to broadly rounded, sharply dentate and pubescent only in the axils of veins on the lower surface.

This foliar description agrees with the *Viburnum dentatum* variety *lucidum* of Britton and Brown (7) and *Viburnum dentatum* var. *lucidum* of Gleason and Cronquist (the common northern form being recognized as *V. recognitum*) (8).

In 1927 H. Pepon, presumably quoting Professor C. J. Hill, states in his annotated *Flora of the Chicago Area* with reference to *Viburnum pubescens*, "Probably all specimens collected as *Viburnum dentatum* L. are of this species" (11).

Deam reported *V. pubescens* in the 1940 *Flora of Indiana* with varieties *Deamii* and *indianense* (4). Earlier in his *Shrubs of Indiana* (3), he reported *V. pubescens* with both varieties and *V. pubescens* as a synonym for *V. affine*. In 1930 Peattie had published, "Reports of *V. dentatum* and *V. pubescens* may be largely assigned to the foregoing species" (*Viburnum affine*) (10). An examination of the 1912 *Proceedings* of the Indiana Academy of Science divulges the existence of a *Viburnum Canbyi* reported by Deam (2). In same report was a statement "it is believed" that *V. molle* should be referred to the same species.

In vol. 53 of the *Academy Proceedings*, Indiana Plant Distribution Records IV show the existence in Indiana of *V. dentatum* variety *Deamii* (5).

In his *Manual of Cultivated Plants*, Bailey still recognizes as separate species *V. dentatum* and *V. pubescens* (1). Fernald used *V. pubescens* as a synonym for *V. dentatum*, and *V. recognitum* synonymously for *V. dentatum* variety *lucidum* (6). Jones and Fuller have listed *V. recognitum* for the only valid binomial of this plant with species *pubescens* and *dentatum* as being synonymous (9).

*Viburnum dentatum* has not been reported from any northern county and *V. dentatum* variety *lucidum* (7) (*V. recognitum*) (8) (6) (9) from any part of the state although it has been reported from central and southern Illinois counties. A small stand has been found in the town of Schererville in Lake County.

*Blephilia ciliata* forma *albiflora* (6) may not have reported from any part of the state because of the superficial resemblance to *Nepeta cataria* (catnip). The common form of woodmint has a blue corolla and it may be easily distinguished from the white petals of catnip. Forma *albiflora*, however, has the same color pattern complete to the dark purple spots. The median oblong lobe in the lower lip of woodmint distinguishes it from catnip upon closer examination. The odor of both plants is strikingly similar and other vegetative characteristics quite alike.

Systematic observations reveal the flower clusters of *Nepeta* to be terminal, continuous or interrupted while those of *Blephilia* to be crowded in dense verticils. *Nepeta* has four stamens, *Blephilia* has two.

While leaf size and shape may be very similar, the dentations of *Nepeta* are more rounded than those of *Blephilia*.

*Blephilia ciliata* forma *albiflora* has been found in Bartz woods about four miles northeast of Valparaiso.

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