UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

Publication WSFNR-21-14C

March 2021

Endangered Species: FALSE POISON SUMAC / MICHAUX'S SUMAC / DWARF SUMAC Rhus michauxii (Sumac Family)

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Dwarf sumac is a small shrub, 0.3-1 meter (1-3.3 feet) tall. It grows in clumps.

Leaves are pinnately compound with 9-13 leaflets. Leaflets have fairly large, coarse teeth evenly spaced along the leaflet edge. Leaflets are 5-9cm (2-3.5 inches) long and 2-5cm (0.2-2 inches) wide with a sharp point. Leaves and twigs are heavily covered with trichomes (plant hairs). Many times the end-most leaflet will have a winged stalk. The rest of the leaflets rest on the leaf stalk.

Flowers in June. Flowers of different sexes are on different plants. Whole clumps are usually of one sex only. Flowers are in dense, strongly conical shaped, terminal clusters. Each small flower has 4-5 minute, greenish-yellow petals. Fruiting is in August and September. Fruit is dark red, very hairy and about 5mm (0.2 inches) in diameter

Dwarf sumac is found in open, upland woods, along forest edges and maintained right-of-ways. Prefers more droughty, full sun areas which have limited competition, especially from taller plants. Grows on sandy and rocky sites and along ridge lines. Requires periodic disturbance of surrounding vegetation for sustainability.

Figure 1 shows the general distribution of dwarf sumac in the Southeastern United States. This species is federally listed as an endangered species. It has been found historically near Coastal Plain sandhills and across the Piedmont in five states. Figure 2 provides a county distribution in Georgia. Photographs are included showing this native plant.

Citation:

Coder, Kim D. 2021. Endangered Species: FALSE POISON SUMAC / MICHAUX'S SUMAC / DWARF SUMAC *Rhus michauxii* (Sumac Family). University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources Outreach Publication WSFNR21-14C. Pp.6.

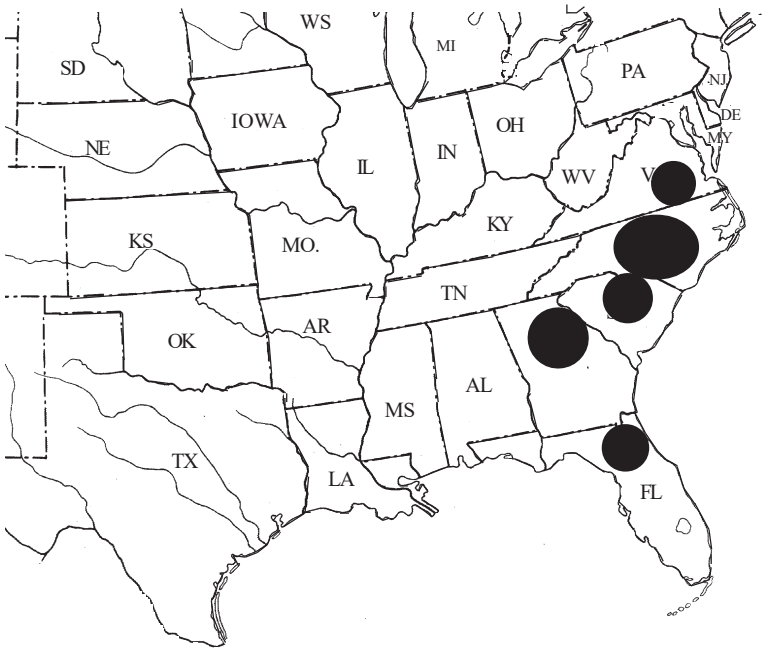
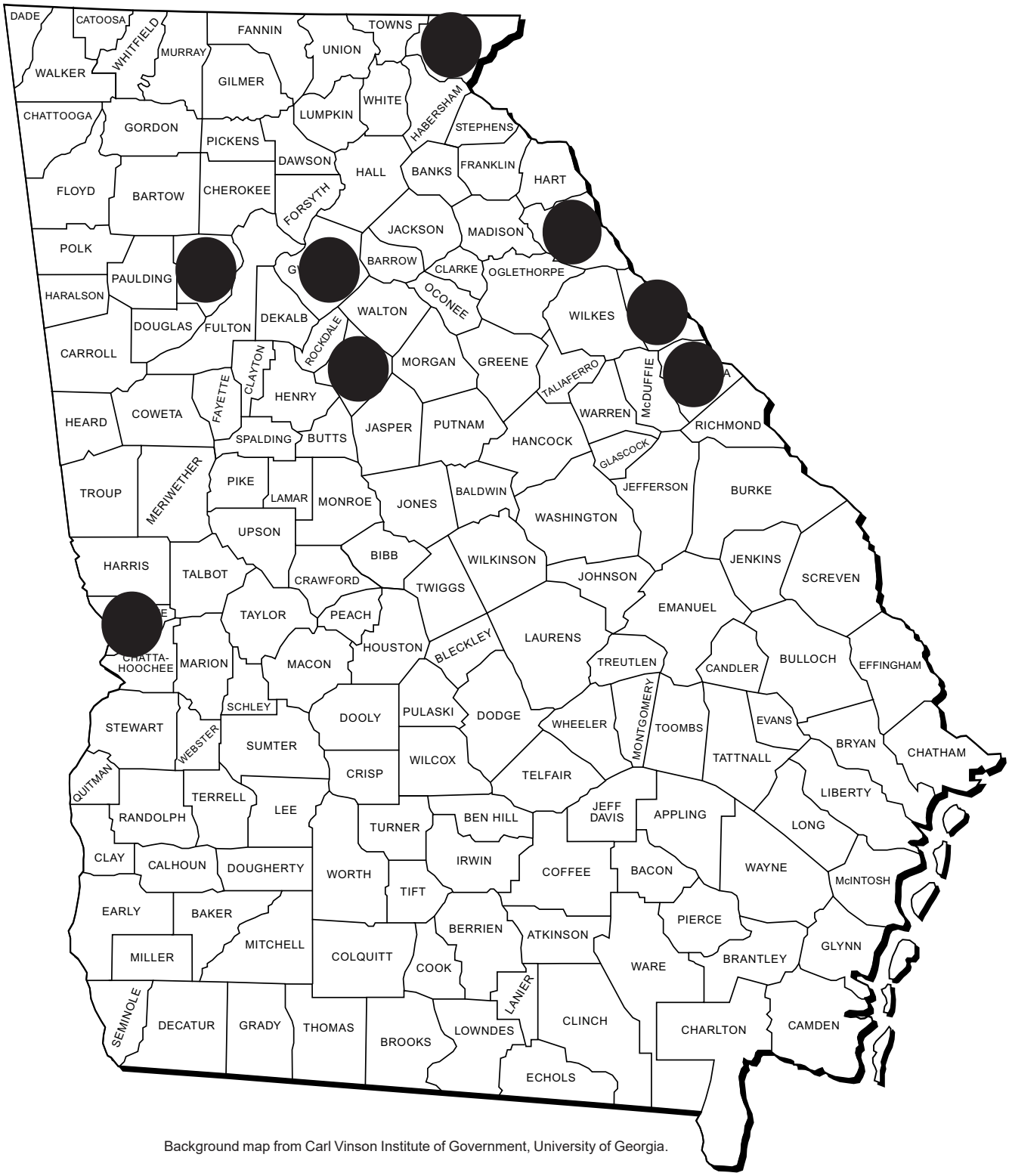


Figure 1: General distribution in the Southeastern US.

Figure 2: County distribution in Georgia.



Background map from Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.

Whole plants. (photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)

Leaves and leaflets.

(photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)

Flowers.

(photo credits Dr. Kim D. Coder)