



Common Name: HAIRY MOCK ORANGE

Scientific Name: *Philadelphus pubescens* Loiseleur

Other Commonly Used Names: hoary mock orange

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Philadelphus intectus* Beadle, *Philadelphus pubescens* var. *intectus* (Beadle) Moore

Family: Saxifragaceae (saxifrage) or Hydrangaceae (hydrangea)

Rarity Ranks: G5?/S1

State Legal Status: Special Concern

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: **Shrub** with stiff, erect branches up to 10 feet (3 meters) tall. Current year's **twigs** gray and hairless, the bark tight, not shredding into papery strips; older twigs brown with shredding bark. **Leaves** 2 - 3 inches (5 - 8 cm) long, oval to oblong with a pointed tip, margins with or without teeth, opposite, hairless on both surfaces, or softly hairy on the lower surface. **Flower clusters** with 5 - 9 flowers on hairless stalks. **Flowers** 1 inch (2.5 cm) wide, with 4 white petals, 4 hairless sepals, and fewer than 50 stamens; not fragrant or only slightly so. **Fruit** a brown, 4-parted capsule, ½ inch (12 mm) long.

Similar Species: Mock orange (*Philadelphus inodorus*) flower clusters have 1 - 3 odorless flowers, each flower with more than 60 stamens. Hirsute mock orange (*P. hirsutus*) twigs are brown in the first year, gray the second year, and are very hairy; its leaves are roughly hairy, almost sandpapery in texture, and the flower clusters have 1 - 3 flowers. English mock orange (*P. coronaria*) is often found at old home sites and has flowers much like hairy mock orange as well as brown, shredding bark on older stems; however, its flowers are fragrant flowers.

Related Rare Species: None in Georgia.

Habitat: Bluffs and stream banks with limestone outcrops.

Life History: Mock orange flowers are pollinated by bees and flies which are attracted to the nectar-producing disk that surrounds the base of the style. Its seeds are dispersed by gravity and insects.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys are best conducted during flowering (April–May) and fruiting (June–August).

Range: Georgia, north to Massachusetts and west to Oklahoma and Ontario.

Threats: Destruction of habitat by logging, clearing, and development; use of herbicides on rights-of-way; invasion by exotic pest plants.

Georgia Conservation Status: Three populations are known, all on conservation land.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Avoid logging and clearing. Protect roadside populations from cutting and spraying. Eradicate exotic pest plants.

Selected References:

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<http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>

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<http://www.herbarium.unc.edu/flora.htm>

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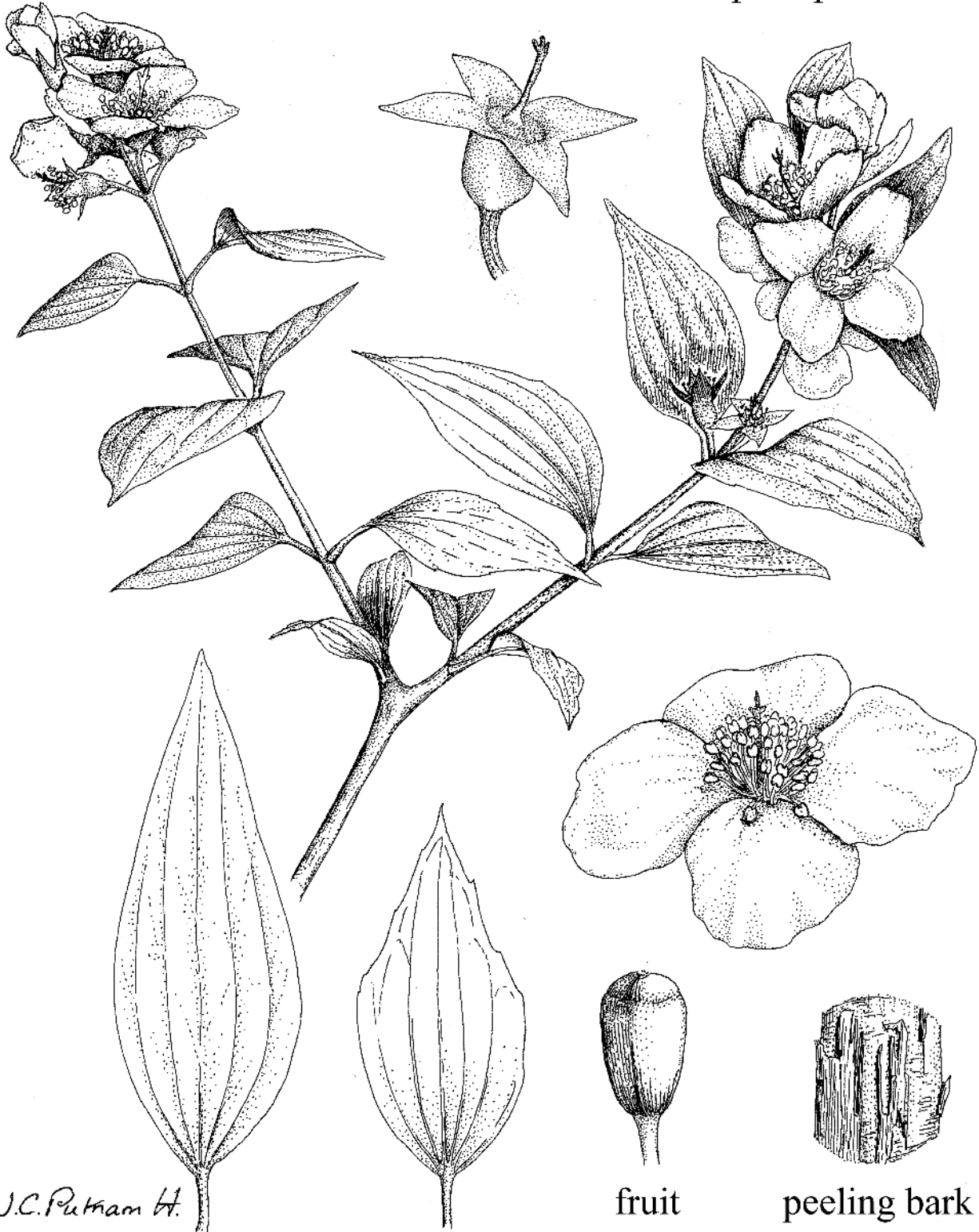
Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, July 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures

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Philadelphus pubescens



J.C. Putnam H.

fruit

peeling bark