



Common Name: WESTERN MARBLESEED

Scientific Name: *Onosmodium molle* Michaux ssp. *occidentale* (Mackenzie) Cochrane

Other Commonly Used Names: softhair marbleseed, western false gromwell, soft-hair false-gromwell

Previously Used Scientific Names: *Onosmodium occidentale* Mackenzie, *Onosmodium bejariense* A. DeCandolle var. *occidentale* (Mackenzie) B.L. Turner

Family: Boraginaceae (borage)

Rarity Ranks: G4G5T4?/S1

State Legal Status: Special Concern

Federal Legal Status: none

Federal Wetland Status: none

Description: Perennial **herb** with a stout stem up to 3 feet (1 meter) tall; all parts of the plant covered with soft, white, spreading hairs. **Leaves** up to 8 inches (20 cm) long at the base of the plant, upper leaves smaller, often overlapping; lance-shaped or oval with pointed tips, rounded bases, and prominent veins; stiff, gray-green, alternate; without leaf stalks. **Flowers** in a leafy, one-sided coil at the ends of branches; the coil straightens and lengthens as flowers open from the bottom to the top, the top flowers often in a drooping cluster. Each **flower** about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch (1 cm) long, pale greenish-white, tubular with 5 narrow, erect petals; style extends well beyond the tip of the flower. **Fruits** contain smooth, white, oval **nutlets**, about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch (3 - 3.5 mm) long.

Similar Species: Virginia marbleseed (*Onosmodium virginianum*) has pale yellow flowers, coarse hairs flattened against the surfaces of leaves and stems, and pitted nutlets.

Related Rare Species: None in Georgia.

Habitat: Limestone cedar glades and adjacent dry woods.

Life History: Little is known about the biology of Western marbleseed. It bolts from a taproot in early spring of the second season and flowers in late spring. It is pollinated by a variety of small insects.

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

Range: Georgia, north to Ontario, west to Utah and Alberta, Canada.

Threats: Clearing and conversion of habitat. Herbicide use in rights-of-way.

Georgia Conservation Status: Four populations are known, 3 on conservation lands.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Avoid mechanical clearing and other disturbances to the ground layer. Avoid use of herbicides in rights-of-way.

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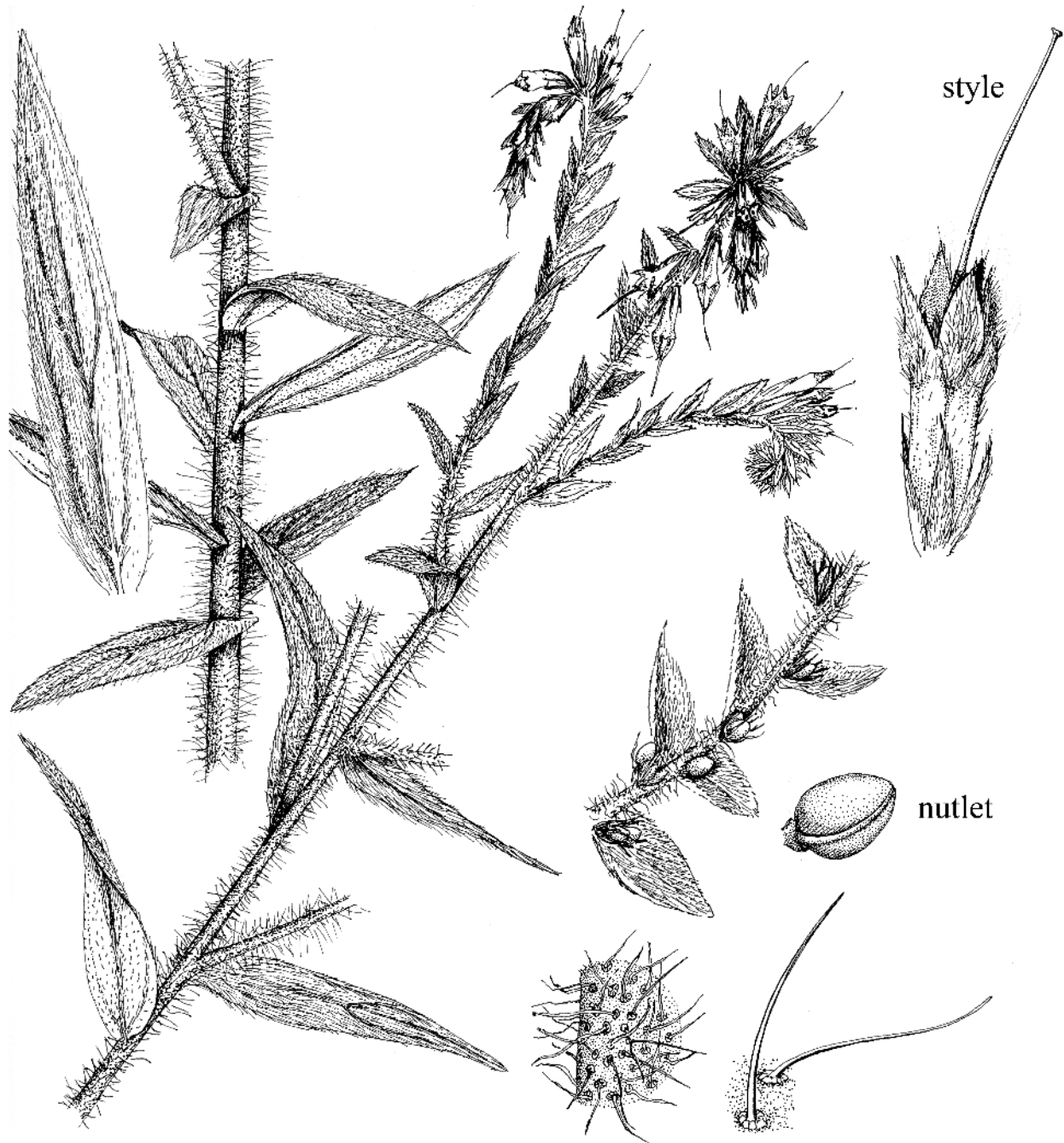
Date Compiled or Updated:

L. Chafin, July 2008: original account

K. Owers, Feb. 2010: added pictures



WESTERN MARBLESEED
Onosmodium molle ssp. *occidentale*



J.C. Putnam H.

hairs on leaf and stem

style

nutlet



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