

**FIRST REPORT OF *VERONICA SUBLOBATA* (PLANTAGINACEAE)
FOR NEW YORK**

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ABSTRACT

Veronica sublobata is naturalized in New York. The first documented occurrences are reported from Dutchess, Monroe, Nassau, New York, Queens, Richmond, Tompkins, and Westchester counties. Verification is provided by herbarium specimens NY and photographs uploaded to iNaturalist and cited at the Global Biodiversity Information Facility.

Spontaneous populations of *Veronica sublobata* M.A. Fischer (pink ivy-leaved speedwell) were found throughout much of New York during routine observation of the flora of New York state. Observations were uploaded to iNaturalist and identifications confirmed by the fifth author (DCA). These are the first reports of this species growing spontaneously in New York state (Werier 2017; Albach 2019; USDA, NRCS 2021).

Veronica sublobata belongs to *Veronica* subg. *Cochlidiosperma* (Albach et al. 2004) and is native in Europe from the British Isles to Russia, north of the Alps and Carpathians. Plants are annual and occur in warm, nitrogenous, moderately shady and moderately moist habitats, such as open deciduous forests, freshly disturbed soil in gardens and parks.

Vouchers. New York. Richmond Co.: New York City, town of New Dorp, W side of Richmond Road, between New Dorp Lane and Odin Street, on brick retaining wall, 25 Apr 2021, *Atha* 16191 (BH, MO, MU, NY, US); N side of Odin Street, between Richmond Road and St. Stephens Place, in tree pit, *Atha* 16192, 16193, 16194 (Fig. 1) (BH, MO, MU, NY, US). **Tompkins Co.:** City of Ithaca, SW corner of Cascadilla and First Streets, 25 Apr 2020, *Werier* 6270 (BH, NY; 6284 BH, US); town of Ithaca, 19 Apr 2001, *Werier* 630 (BH).

Additional populations in New York state are documented in iNaturalist as follows (iNaturalist observation numbers): Dutchess Co.: 74405842. Monroe Co.: 23089175. Nassau Co.: 11465033, 73331232, 74544290, 73158603. New York Co.: 73985891, 73985694. Queens Co.: 78783353. Richmond Co.: 11782381, 75188059, 75427794, 75427795, 75427796, 75427797, 75429066, 75430756, 75430757, 75430762, 75430763, 75430769, 75430772. Tompkins Co.: 80423639. Westchester Co.: 41607702. Voucher specimens and iNaturalist observations indexed by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF 2021).

Veronica subg. *Cochlidiosperma* (Albach et al. 2004) is a group of twelve annuals native to Europe, southwest Asia, and Northern Africa. *Veronica sublobata* is a polyploid species with 36 chromosomes (Albach et al. 2008) and has been considered a synonym or subspecies of *Veronica hederifolia* L., a species with 54 chromosomes and likely a hybrid of *V. sublobata* with an unknown other species. *Veronica sublobata* and *Veronica hederifolia* are both introduced and can co-occur at the same locality. They flower in early spring (March to May).

Key to distinguish *Veronica sublobata* from *Veronica hederifolia*

1. Pedicel length (at least in fruit) 3–4(-6) times calyx length, usually with few to many randomly scattered long (>width of pedicel) spreading hairs, sometimes also with a single line of short hairs; corollas pale violet, pink or whitish, the interior without a contrasting white (although paler) center, 4–5(-6) mm diam; styles 0.2–0.7 mm long ***Veronica sublobata***
1. Pedicel length 2–3 times calyx length, with a single line of short (< width of pedicel) hairs; corollas blue with a strongly contrasting bright white center, 5–7(-9) mm diam; styles (0.6-)0.7–0.9(-1.1) mm long ***Veronica hederifolia***

Veronica sublobata has rarely been recognized in the US flora. It was previously reported for Alabama, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, Utah, and Virginia (Albach 2019). It is often overlooked and will likely be found in additional places (Albach 2019).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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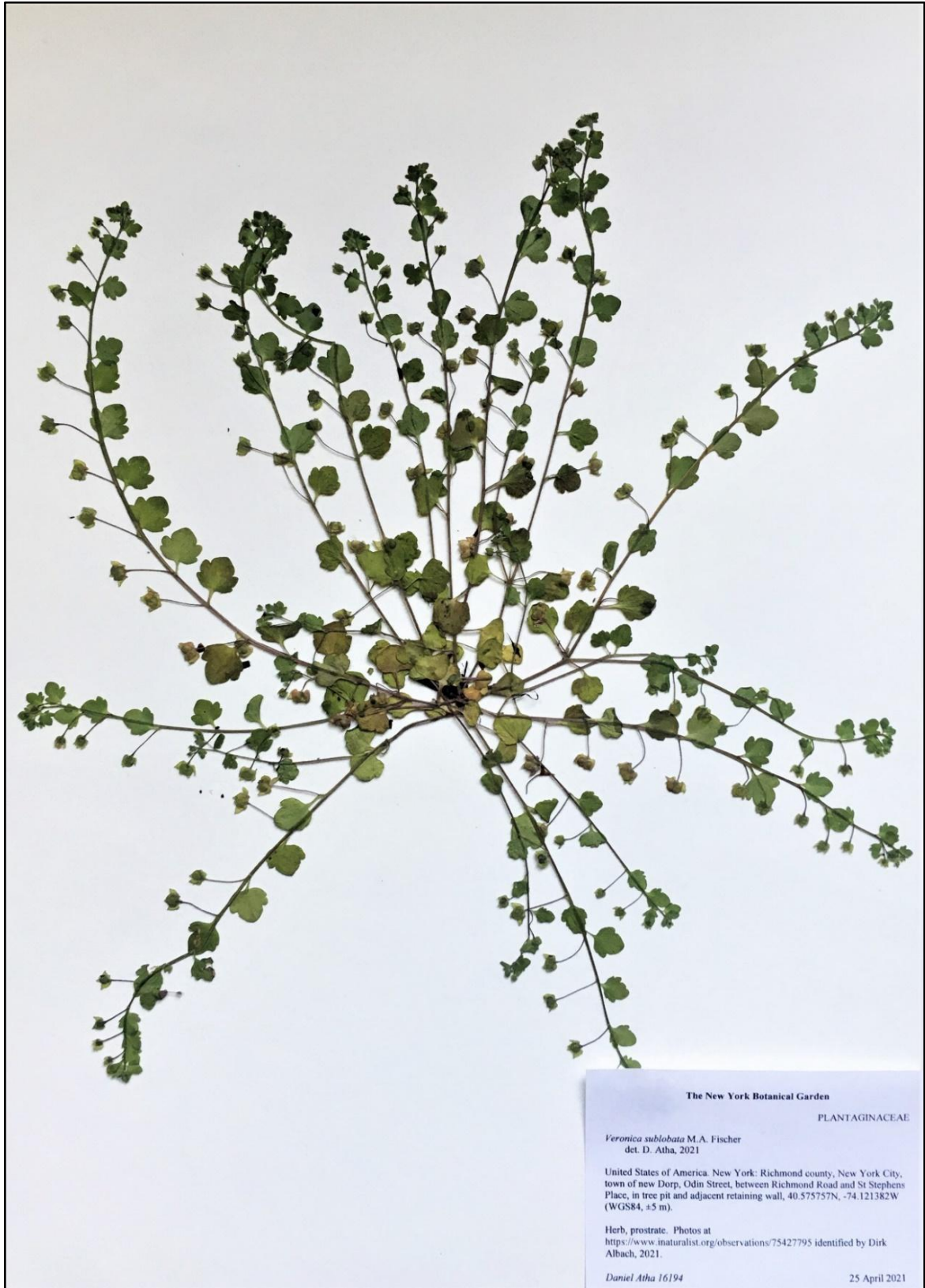


Figure 1. *Veronica sublobata*. Richmond Co., Atha 16194, (NY).

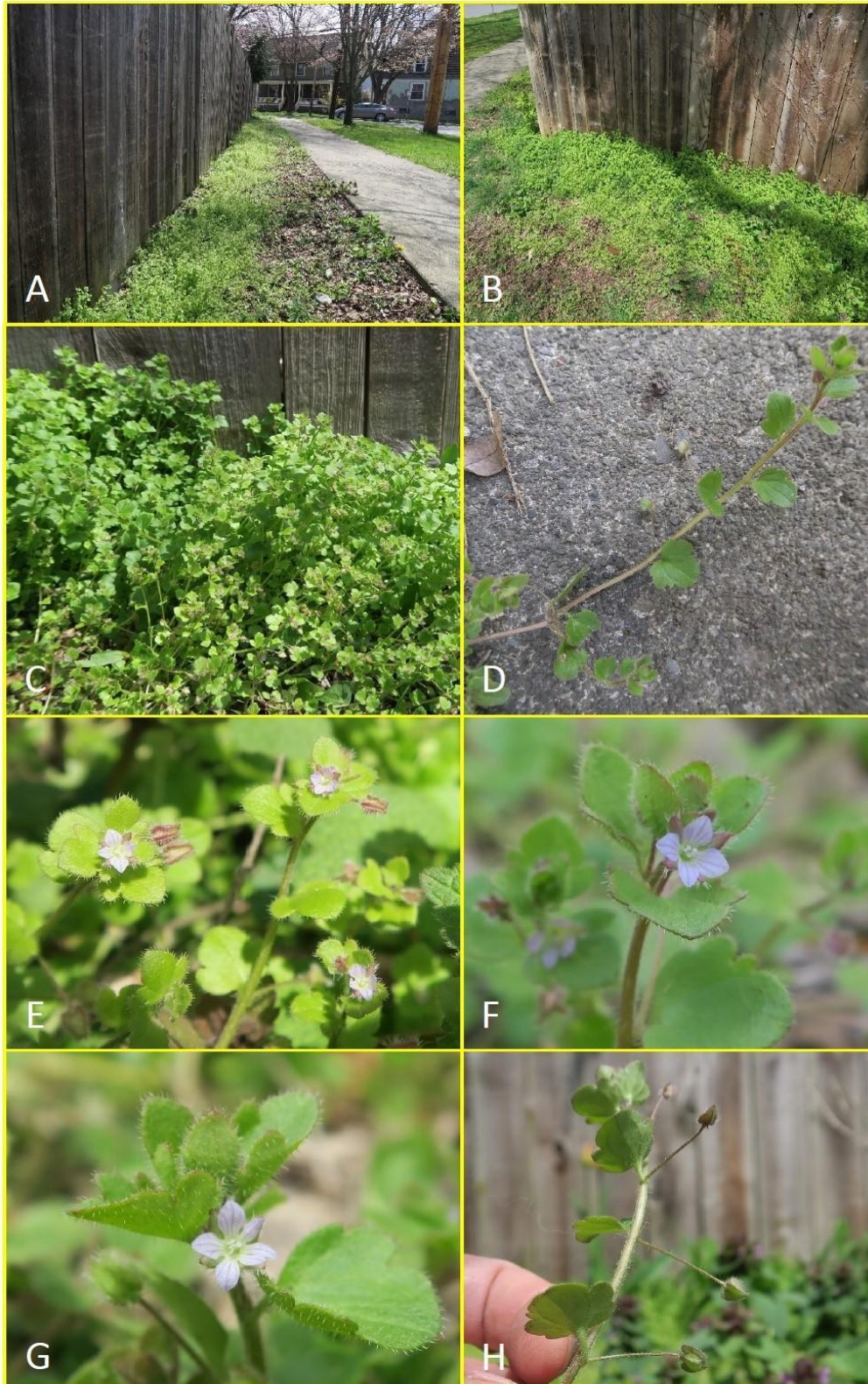


Figure 2. *Veronica sublobata*. A. habitat. B. Pure stand showing density. C. Erect habit (may also be prostrate). D. Stem and leaves. E. Flowers and flower buds; F. Open flower showing solid pale pink color in center; G. Open flower showing stamens and short styles; H. Fruit showing long pedicels with scattered spreading hairs (A–H, Tompkins Co., *Verier* 6270, 6284, BH and iNaturalist observation 80423639).

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