

12-2013

*Commelina benghalensis* New to Virginia

W. John Hayden

University of Richmond, jhayden@richmond.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.richmond.edu/biology-faculty-publications>Part of the [Botany Commons](#), and the [Horticulture Commons](#)**Recommended Citation**Hayden, W. John. "Commelina benghalensis New to Virginia." *Castanea* 78, no. 4 (December 2013): 329.

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Biology at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Biology Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu](mailto:scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu).

## Noteworthy Collections

# Virginia

## *Commelina benghalensis* New to Virginia

W. John Hayden\*

Department of Biology, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173

*Commelina benghalensis* L. (COMMELINACEAE)—**Henrico County:** University of Richmond campus, flower bed adjacent to Richmond Way, between Weinstein Hall and Whitehurst Building, 37°34'40.92"N, 77°32'18.93"W, 19 October 2012, W. J. Hayden 5688 (URV, duplicates at: FARM, JMU, LYN, MARY, NCU, ODU, VCU, VPI, WILLI, WVA).

*Significance.* This is the first report of *Commelina benghalensis* (Benghal dayflower, tropical spiderwort) in Virginia. Three mature plants with intertwined stems bearing numerous chasmogamous and cleistogamous flowers were discovered as weeds in a landscape planting of hybrid *Hemerocallis*, hybrid *Iris*, and a dwarf cultivar of *Nandina domestica*; nine nonreproductive seedlings were found about one meter distant in the same flower bed. Inspection of other landscape plantings on the University of Richmond campus failed to yield additional specimens. In the eastern United States this federally listed noxious weed has progressively spread northward from its discovery in Florida

in 1928 (Faden 1993); it was reported most recently from North Carolina by Krings et al. (2002). All plants found were collected and incorporated into a series of herbarium vouchers and fluid preserved specimens intended for anatomical study. This weedy annual is readily distinguished from other native and naturalized species of *Commelina* by the combination of spathes bearing chasmogamous flowers near stem tips and nearly closed spathes bearing cleistogamous flowers arising from proximal, often subterranean, nodes (Faden 1993).

### LITERATURE CITED

- Faden, R.B. 1993. The misconstrued and rare species of *Commelina* (Commelinaceae) in the eastern United States. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 80:208–218.
- Krings, A., M.G. Burton, and A.C. York. 2002. *Commelina benghalensis* (Commelinaceae) new to North Carolina and an updated key to Carolina congeners. *Sida* 20:419–422.

\*email address: jhayden@richmond.edu

Received July 8, 2013; Accepted August 19, 2013.

DOI: 10.2179/13-033