

THE BOTANISTS' CORNER

HEDGE MAPLE *ACER CAMPESTRE* (SAPINDACEAE):
A RECORD OF ESTABLISHMENT IN CONNECTICUT

KRYSTA BERTOLI¹ AND BRYAN A. CONNOLLY

Department of Biology, Framingham State University, 100 State Street,
Framingham, MA 01701

¹Author for correspondence; e-mail: kbertoli@student.framingham.edu

Hedge maple, *Acer campestre* L., is a mid-successional tree native to Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa (Clark and Weckman 2008). It is commonly found between farm fields in hedgerows, hence the common name, and other anthropogenic habitats where it grows as a shrub or tree. Hedge maple is somewhat similar to Norway maple, *A. plantanoides* L., as both have a milky sap (Haines 2011). However, Hedge maple is significantly smaller in stature and has much smaller leaves with rounder lobes. *Acer campestre* has been introduced to North America and is established in Ontario, Canada and several US states including; CA, IN, MA, NJ, NY, OH, PA, and VT (Angelo and Boufford 2017; Haines 2011; USDA 2017). In addition to these confirmed occurrences, there is one unconfirmed report of *A. campestre* in Kentucky.

On November 27th, 2015 three weedy saplings of *Acer campestre*, about 0.5 m tall, were found on the University of Connecticut, Storrs campus. These individuals are still surviving as of 2017. It is likely that these spontaneous plants represent seedlings from cultivated individuals of *A. campestre* growing near the site. Although there is a specimen of *A. campestre* in the George Safford Torrey herbarium (CONN) collected on the University of Connecticut campus by J. Napier in 1973, it is unclear if this individual was cultivated or free living (Clark and Weckman 2008). The saplings that were found appeared to be the first unequivocal record of this species growing spontaneously in Connecticut (Angelo and Boufford 2017; Dreyer et al. 2013; Haines 2011; USDA 2017). The files of the George Safford Torrey Herbarium (CONN), Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, The University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, were searched for further information (<http://bgbaseserver.eeb.uconn.edu/database.html>; Accessed 9 February 2017).

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