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About the Cover

Brajesh Vaidya

Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA

Terri A. Brearley

Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA

Nirmal Joshee

Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA

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Scutellaria Ocmulgee Small (Ocmulgee skullcap) was first collected and described from the banks of the Ocmulgee River near Macon, Georgia in the year 1886. At present it is found only in Georgia and South Carolina, and is listed as a threatened species in Georgia with nineteen known populations. The habitat for *S. ocmulgee* is generally dominated by mature hardwoods growing in rich soils near streams. *S. ocmulgee* is a perennial herb with quadrangular stems that are 40 - 80 cm tall. The leaves are attached oppositely and the petioles are 1.8 - 2.5 cm long. Both leaf surfaces are hairy, with trichomes on the adaxial side. The flowers are irregular, with the “capped” calyx. The flowers are 1.8 - 2.5 cm long, with an erect tube, and have a hood-like upper lip and down-curved, white-striped lower lip. The fruit contains four small nutlets (seeds). The flowering period is from late June to early August. Major threats to *S. ocmulgee* include logging, quarrying, trampling, commercial development, mechanical clearing, deer herbivory and competition and overgrowth of exotic invasive plants.