

2018 November *Guess that Plant*



Hypericum mutilum L.; Dwarf St. John's-Wort

The November *Guess that Plant* is one of New Jersey's common St. John-Worts. Our flora is flush with members of this genus. The dwarf St. John's-Wort is a common herb found Statewide, with records from every county. It is a native wetland species common around lake edges, open damp paths and any area with persistent open, wet conditions. It is differentiated from similar species by elliptic bract leaves, with sepals that are shorter than the seed capsule. The plant prefers acidic soils with little nutrient inputs, but can be an occasional farm field invader in the southern counties bordering on the Delaware River. The photo above was taken in a floristically rich Malaga lakeside along with other members of the genus, as well as spike and beaked sedges.

JRA 11/2018