

## 2020 October *Guess that Plant*



*Hypericum dissimulatum* E. P. Bicknell, Disguised St. Johnswort

The October 2020 *Guess that Plant* was a tricky native New Jersey St. Johnswort that is known as *Hypericum dissimulatum* or *Hypericum x dissimulatum* depending on the current species understanding.

The Flora of North America (FNA Vol. 6) identifies this plant as a hybrid between *H. canadense* L. and *H. mutilum* L. As described in FNA, Volume 6, "*Hypericum canadense* is closely related to *H. majus*; it hybridizes with that species and with *H. mutilum*, producing intermediate forms. *Hypericum x dissimulatum* E. P. Bicknell appears to comprise a continuous series of hybrids between *H. canadense* and *H. mutilum* or *H. boreale* such that it is not always possible to say which of these species is involved."

The disguised St. Johnswort is a wetland plant, and is found on moist to saturated sandy acidic soils. The species, *H. canadense* is found statewide. The hybrid *H. x dissimulatum* is most abundant on New Jersey's Coastal Plain.