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**New York Botanical Garden Experts Will Lead Effort to Document and Eradicate
An Emerging Invasive Plant Species This Spring and Summer Along the Bronx River**

Teams of NYBG Citizen Scientists Will Take Aim at Incised Fumewort, an Eastern Asian Plant
That Threatens Violets and Other Native Species, Forests, and Wetlands

Incised fumewort (*Corydalis incisa*)

Bronx, NY— Aiming to stop a recently introduced invasive plant species from becoming a
major problem in the New York metropolitan area, the Center for Conservation Strategy at
The New York Botanical Garden will work this spring and summer to document and eradicate
the plant along the Bronx River.

The invasive species, incised fumewort (*Corydalis incisa*), is native to eastern Asia and was
first detected in North America in 2005. So far, it has been found in a number of isolated
locations, ranging from White Plains, New York, to Washington, D.C. The plant likely spread
from home gardens as it was briefly available at area nurseries. Also known as purple keman,
incised fumewort grows four to 20 inches in height and features tubular purple flowers and
sharply incised leaves. The plant ejects its seeds with such force that they can travel up to
nine feet.

In the New York area, incised fumewort has spread alarmingly along the Bronx River. Like
garlic mustard and Japanese knotweed, the plant forms dense monocultures that crowd out
native species such as violets and disrupt forest and wetland ecosystems.

With financial support from the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, the Botanical Garden's Center for Conservation Strategy, which works to conserve plant diversity regionally and globally, is developing a citizen science project to document the extent of the infestation on the Bronx River in Westchester County from Valhalla to Yonkers, providing critical data needed for eradication.

Leading the Garden's effort are its Conservation Program Manager, Daniel Atha, and the Director of its Thain Family Forest, Jessica Schuler, both of whom have extensive experience in detecting and controlling invasive species. Westchester County Parks and the New York State Natural Heritage Program are collaborating on the project.

From May to June, teams of experts and citizen scientists will visit 20 sites spaced every half-mile along the Bronx River. The teams will collect a variety of data, including plant density, habitat type, canopy cover, and disturbance patterns such as areas that have been dug up or cut down. Data will be entered into iMapInvasives, the Natural Heritage Program's mapping program, which is available to the scientific, conservation, and lay communities. Specimens of incised fumewort collected as part of the project will be archived in the Garden's William and Lynda Steere Herbarium; the data and images will be available online via its C.V. Starr Virtual Herbarium.

Data collected by the teams will be analyzed to produce a scientifically sound assessment of the infestation and provide resource managers with a clearer picture of the health and functionality of the Bronx River corridor in Westchester County. The citizen scientist teams will also remove the plants by hand during the 2016 growing season, returning as necessary until the species is eradicated. When possible, native seed mixes will be applied to these sites. This combination of documentation and eradication, known as early detection and rapid response, is considered the most effective method for controlling new infestations of invasive species, combining science-based research with targeted eradication efforts.

As part of the Garden's project, an outreach effort to raise public awareness about the invasive threat posed by incised fumewort will target garden centers, nurseries, and other interested parties.

The New York Botanical Garden, which is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year, has been committed to saving the plants of the world since its founding in 1891. As part of that commitment, the Garden documents the botanical heritage of the region and works to conserve it for future generations.

To volunteer as a citizen scientist on this project, contact the Garden's volunteer office at 718.817.8765 or volunteer@nybg.org for more information.

This project is supported by the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, using funds from the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, the Botanical Garden is one of the world's preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. Garden scientists conduct fundamental research on plants and fungi globally, as well as on the many relationships between plants and people. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden's 250-acre site is one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world and the largest in any city in the United States, distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens, as well as by the scope and excellence of its programs in horticulture, education, and science. Learn more: nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

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