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Folivory and disease occurrence on *Ludwigia hexapetala* in Guntersville Reservoir, Alabama
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We report leaf feeding, disease occurrence, and associated indigenous herbivore/fungal pathogen communities on the introduced wetland species *Ludwigia hexapetala* at Guntersville Reservoir, AL. Plant populations were sampled on three dates from May to September 2014. A complex of indigenous herbivore and fungal taxa, mostly known from other *Ludwigia* spp., resulted in peak feeding and disease occurrence on 88% and 92% of sampled leaves, respectively. Herbivore damage declined over the growing season from 78 to 21% of sampled leaves, and disease symptom occurrence increased from 0 to 80%. Total leaf damage (percent leaf area) from both herbivory and disease was determined by software image analyses of floating and aerial leaves and reached 14% total reduction in photosynthetic tissues by September 2014. Aerial leaves were more commonly affected by disease symptoms, whereas floating leaves had a greater incidence of herbivore damage. Fourteen insect herbivore and seven fungal taxa were associated with *L. hexapetala* at Guntersville Reservoir. Despite the diverse assemblage of herbivores and fungi associated with *L. hexapetala*, damage was relatively low and the weed continues to persist as a nuisance species at this and other sites in southeastern United States. However, these results along with past surveys and literature review demonstrate the ability of common *Ludwigia* arthropod herbivores in the United States to host shift between *Ludwigia* spp. This begs the question as to how difficult it will be to locate potential biocontrol agents of *L. hexapetala* outside the United States that will be sufficiently host specific to present little to no risk to native *Ludwigia* spp.