

*Vaccinium uliginosum* vs.  
*Vaccinium caespitosum*

Morphological differences between the  
Bog Blueberry and Dwarf Blueberry

By Tina Buxbaum

# General Info

- Deciduous shrub found primarily in the circumboreal regions of the world including Alaska
- Prefers acidic uplands, heaths and bogs and spreads via layering of branches
- Produces flowers in early spring (late May/early June) and berries in mid to late summer (late July/early August)

# Getting to Species (via Hultén)

Family: Ericaceae

Genus: Vaccinium

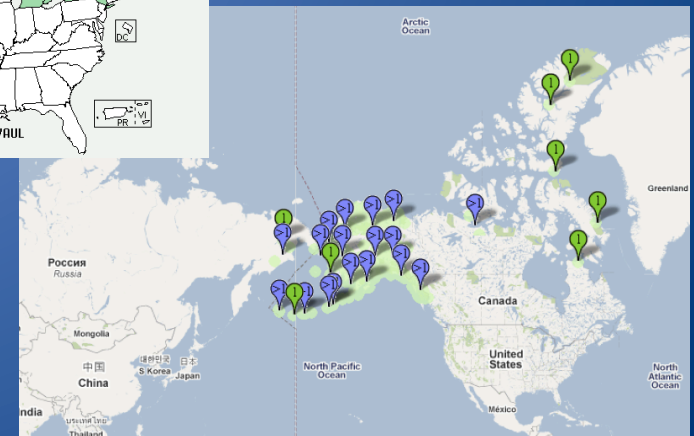
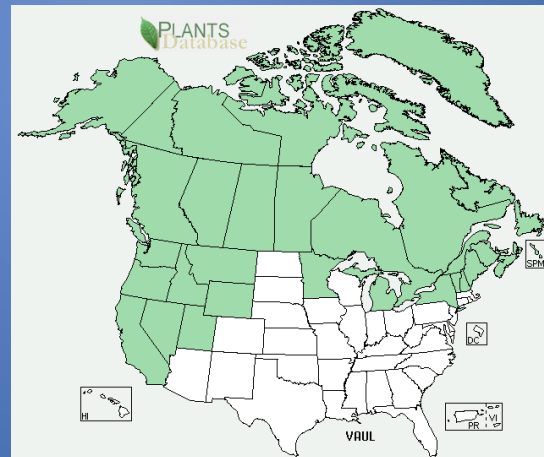
- Leaves evergreen, coriaceous; flowers in terminal clusters, anthers without horns ()
- Leaves deciduous, thin; flowers single in axils; anthers with horns ()



- Branches angled; Plant usually more than 20cm tall ()
- Branches terete; plant about 20cm tall or shorter ()
  - Leaves uniformly and densely serrated in margins – *V. caespitosum*
  - Leaves entire in margin – *V. uliginosum*

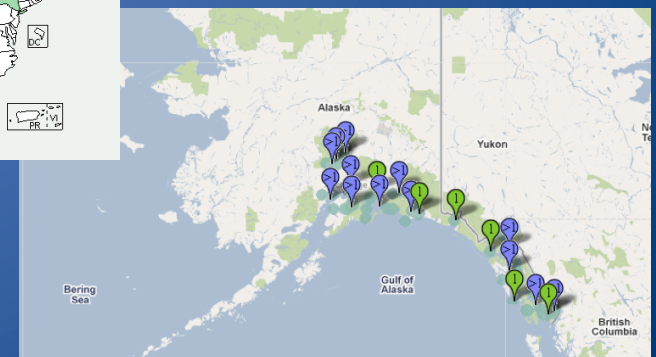
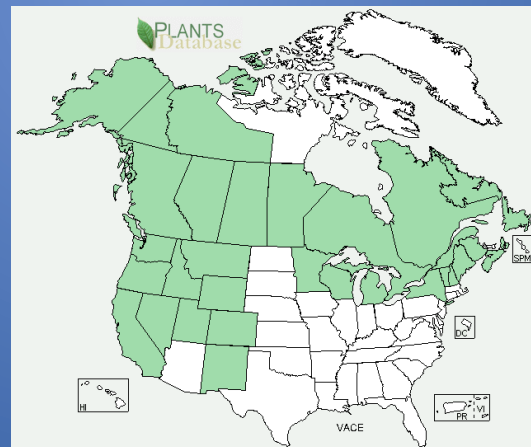
# Description: *V. uliginosum*

- Depressed or ascending, strongly branches, dwarf shrub, with terete twigs; leaves coriaceous, entire, oblong, obovate or rounded, dull green above, paler and distinctly nerved beneath; corolla urceolate, white or pinkish; berry dark blue



# Description: *V. caespitosum*

- Low, tufted shrub with terete branches; leaves membranaceous, shiny green on both sides, cuneate-oblongate to obovate, highly variable in form, uniformly and densely serrated, finely glandular below; flowers single; corolla tubular-urceolate, longer than broad, pink; berries blue with pale bloom.



# Similarities:

(*V. caespitosum* on L and *V. uliginosum* on R)

Terete (round) stems



Glabrous or pubescent leaves



# Differences: Leaves



*V. caespitosum*



*V. uliginosum*

# Differences: General Inflorescence

*V. caespitosum*



*V. uliginosum*





# Differences: Sepals

*V. caespitosum*

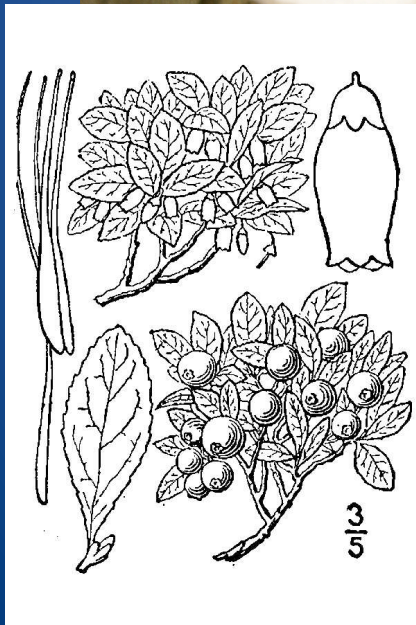


*V. uliginosum*



# Differences: Anther horn

*V. caespitosum*



*V. uliginosum*



# ARCTOS Specimens and Lit Cited...

ALAAC Numbers:

<i>Vaccinium caespitosum</i>	<i>Vaccinium uliginosum</i>
21869	24039
25156	57923
37407	96639
59499	97496
59502	24039
84748	36481
133869	
147789	
151093	

# Literature Cited...

- All photos were taken by Tina Buxbaum using ALA specimens
  - SEM photo taken by Tina Buxbaum using fresh specimen
- Research for this project utilized Eric Hulten's *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*.
- Alaska distribution maps were created using ARCTOS BerkleyMapper
- *V. uliginosum* US distribution Maps, common names and synonyms were courtesy USDA - Source: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=VAU>
- *V. caespitosum* US distribution Maps, anther line drawing, common names and synonyms were courtesy USDA – Source: <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=VACE>