

By: Leman

H.C.R. No. 61

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Among the fascinating array of flora in the Lone
2 Star State, one of the most unique species, both in appearance and
3 life cycle, is the Texas star mushroom; and

4 WHEREAS, This extremely rare mushroom, known scientifically
5 as *Chorioactis geaster*, was first collected in Austin in 1893 and is
6 nearly exclusive to Texas, with Japan being the only other place in
7 the world with a notable population; highly selective about where
8 it chooses to grow, the mushroom's Texas range is limited to the
9 central and northern parts of the state and includes Fayette,
10 Guadalupe, Hays, Travis, Collin, Dallas, Denton, Tarrant, and Hunt
11 Counties; and

12 WHEREAS, The Texas star appears in winter, most commonly on
13 the exposed roots and decaying stumps of cedar elm trees; it emerges
14 as a dark brown capsule about four inches in length, which inspired
15 its nickname, the devil's cigar; and

16 WHEREAS, After rains, the mushroom explodes open with an
17 audible hiss, seemingly puffing smoke as it fills the air with a
18 cloud of spores that waft away to help ensure a future generation
19 for the species; in addition to its other memorable traits, the
20 mushroom, once opened, has a starlike shape that makes it seem
21 custom designed for the Lone Star landscape; and

22 WHEREAS, A poignant reminder of the natural diversity that
23 surrounds us, the Texas star mushroom is as uncommon and striking as
24 the state that serves as its home, and it is indeed deserving of

1 special recognition; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the 87th Legislature of the State of Texas
3 hereby designate the Texas star mushroom as the official State
4 Mushroom of Texas.