**Common Name:** Yellow Toadflax or butter-and-eggs, Dalmatian toadflax

**Scientific Name:** *Linaria vulgaris* P. Mill. (yellow toadflax); *Linaria dalmatica* (L.) P. Mill. (dalmation toadflax)

**Family:** Figwort family (Scrophulariaceae)

**Related Species:** Indian paintbrushes (*Castilleja* spp.), yellow rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*).

**Description:** Yellow toadflax: 1-25 stems per plant; woody, smooth, erect, leafy, often in clumps to 2 ½ feet tall. Numerous pale green leaves to 3 inches long, alternate, narrow and pointed at both ends. Flowers borne at the end of each stem in spike-like clusters, yellow, with **central bearded orange patch**, one inch long, similar to snapdragons with a spur extending below the lower lip of the corolla.

Dalmatian toadflax: Plants to five feet tall. Leaves are broad 1-2 inches long, oval to lance-shaped, crowded and clasping on the stems. Flowers similar to yellow toadflax. Dalmatian toadflax is a larger plant with broader leaves than yellow toadflax.

**Life History:** An aggressive perennial that can reproduce by seeds or rhizomes. Persistent colony-forming perennial. Toadflaxes require disturbance to establish on a site. Taproots may penetrate the soil to three feet deep and extend ten feet away from the parent plant. Roots have buds that can break off into independent plants. Seeds remain dormant in the soil up to ten years.

**Where Found:** Commonly found throughout Southcentral Alaska, particularly near settlements or developed features. Also found in the interior. One occurrence found in Juneau in 2003. Pojar and MacKinnon (1994) and Hulten (1968) report yellow toadflax in Skagway.

**Habitat:** Common in roadsides, fields, waste areas, railroad yards, pastures, and edges of forests, occasionally in mountain meadows.

**Impacts:** Toadflaxes are on the noxious weed lists of nine western states. Toadflaxes infest 70,000 acres in Colorado.

Yellow Toadflax Photo: Brother Alfred Brousseau
**Fun Facts:** Both species were introduced into North America by gardeners. Farmers in New England have abandoned fields taken over by yellow toadflax. A mature Dalmatian toadflax can produce 500,000 seeds in a year. Because it was easy to grow and hardy, it was often chosen to brighten the yards of mining towns. Most of these towns are long abandoned, but the butter-and-eggs live on.

**Control Options:** Difficult to control. Management is best done in early summer after flower bud formation but before flowering. Pulling, mowing and tillage alone are effective only if repeated for several years, but will prevent the production of seeds. Any method requires follow-up monitoring for ten years, the time it takes to exhaust the seed bank.

**Herbicide Options:** Chemical methods are effective when used as a follow-up to other methods such as pulling or mowing. Dicamba is effective when applied in early spring. Chlorsulfuron is effective in the bud-bloom stage. Glyphosate and dicamba are considered effective. Use dicamba cautiously as it is active in the soil and can be absorbed by the roots of desirable vegetation. Yellow toadflax is much more resistant to chemical control. 2,4-D, MCPA, MCPB, and mecoprop do not control toadflax. Repeated applications may be necessary for some chemical combinations.