

ACONITUM UNCINATUM L.
Southern Monkshood

FAMILY: Ranunculaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from a tuberous-thickened root, 0.2-1 m.; flowering late August-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to *A. noveboracense*. The rachis of the inflorescence in *A. uncinatum* is glabrous to sparsely pilose, while that of *A. noveboracense* is hirsute. *A. uncinatum* also blooms slightly later than *A. noveboracense*.

TOTAL RANGE: Sw. PA to s. IN, s. to n. GA, w. SC, c. TN, and n. AL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2006): Post-1980 records from Scioto County.

HABITAT: In deep shade of a cool, moist sandstone rock shelter. In other parts of its range, it grows in a variety of mesic woodland situations.

HAZARDS: Drying of habitat by removal of forest canopy; soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably very poor; seed and transplant experiments with the related *A. noveboracense* have not produced positive results.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Note presence of tubers and root connectives; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: When not in bloom, this species may be easily overlooked. However, it seems to be extremely rare in Ohio owing to the limited availability of the habitat. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout unglaciated Ohio.

Hardin (1964) splits *A. uncinatum* into two subspecies. If this concept is accepted, the Ohio material conforms to the typical subspecies.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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