

ANDREAEA RUPESTRIS Hedw. var. RUPESTRIS
Black Rock Moss

FAMILY: Andreaeaceae

CHARACTERS: Small (5 –30 mm high) tufted black plants with fiddle-shaped leaves lacking a costa. Leaves are ovate-lanceolate 0.5- 1.0 (1.5) mm long. The unusual capsule splits longitudinally by 4 valves.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *A. rothii* grows in similar habitats but the leaves are more lanceolate and have a costa. It could superficially be confused with members of the genus *Schistidium* or *Grimmia*.

TOTAL RANGE: ME, MI, OH, MN, MI, NC, CO, OR, CA, AK. Circumboreal and on every continent.

STATE RANGE: Pre-1980 record from Hocking County.

HABITAT: Exposed acidic boulders and cliffs in places where water seeps over the surface of the rock for part of the year.

HAZARDS: Disturbance of rock surfaces through hiking and rock climbing; overshadowing by woody plants through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, presumably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only a small sample of plants, including capsules.

COMMENTS: Potential habitat for *A. rupestris* var. *rupestris* occurs throughout Fairfield, Hocking, Jackson, and Pike Counties. It should be searched for throughout Ohio where sandstone outcrops occur. The black color of this plant makes it easy to observe.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Crum, H.A. and L.E. Anderson. 1981. Mosses of Eastern North America. Volumes 1 & 2. Columbia University Press. NY. 1328 pp.

Ireland, R.R. 1982. Moss Flora of the Maritime Provinces. National Museum of Natural Sciences, Publications in Botany, No. 13. Ottawa, Canada. 738 p.



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