

ARABIS HIRSUTA (L.) Scop.
var. PYCNOCARPA (M. Hopkins) Rollins
Western Hairy Rock Cress

FAMILY: Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)

SYNONYMS: *Arabis pycnocarpa* M. Hopkins

HABIT: Biennial herb to 8 dm.; flowering May, June; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Arabis hirsuta* var. *pycnocarpa* is very similar to and may be confused with *Arabis hirsuta* var. *adpressipilis*. In var. *pycnocarpa*, the pubescence of the stem consists mostly of spreading, simple hairs; in var. *adpressipilis*, the hairs of the stem are mostly 2-pronged on a very short stipe, therefore appearing appressed.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. to AK, s. to PA, IN, KS, NM, AR, and CA, and in the southern uplands to n. GA. There are two other North American varieties that occur within the above range. The typical variety is Eurasian.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Butler county. Pre-1980 records exist from Adams, Butler, Erie, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, and Highland counties.

HABITAT: Moist to dry, usually calcareous, open situations: open woods, stream banks, ledges, cliffs, bluffs, and floodplains.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but probably overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good; it occurs frequently in disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for identification.

COMMENTS: This variety is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout Ohio. It may be more frequent than the few records indicate.

This variety is treated as a full species by Hopkins (1937). However, even the taxonomic status of this variety is in doubt. Many Ohio species of both var. *adpressipilis* and var. *pycnocarpa* appear to exhibit intergradation. More research is needed to determine the true taxonomic status of these and other varieties of *Arabis hirsute*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Easterly, N.W. 1964. Distribution patterns of Ohio Cruciferae. *Castanea* 29: 164-173.

Hopkins, M. 1937. *Arabis* in eastern and central North America. *Rhodora* 39: 63-98, 106-148, 155-186.



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