

ARABIS PATENS Sullivant
Spreading Rock Cress

FAMILY: Cruciferae (Brassicaceae).

HABIT: Biennial to perennial herb to 6 dm.; flowering May, June; fruiting June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Arabis patens* resembles *Arabis shortii*. *A. patens* has mature fruiting pedicels 10-16 mm. long; whereas *A. shortii* has mature fruiting pedicels 2-4 mm. long.

TOTAL RANGE: PA to IN, s. to w. NC and e. TN.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Franklin County. Pre-1980 records exist from Delaware County. There is a dubious record from Clark County (Easterly, 1964).

HABITAT: Shaded, calcareous cliffs, bluffs, and talus slopes.

HAZARDS: Drying of habitat by removal of vegetation; rock climbing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor due to the limited habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for identification; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: Though easily identified, this species may be overlooked due to its small flowers and nondescript appearance. It also may be under-reported due to the difficulty of collecting it in its cliff, bluff, or talus slope habitat. It should be sought in such habitats throughout central Ohio.

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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