

ARCTOSTAPHYLOS UVA-URSI (L.) Spreng.
Bearberry

FAMILY: Ericaceae

SYNONYMS: *Uva-ursi uva-ursi* (L.) Britt.

HABIT: Prostrate evergreen shrub with trailing stems and short upright branches; flowers May-June, fruits July-Aug.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This distinctive species can be easily recognized by its prostrate, trailing habit, oval to oblong evergreen leaves, small pinkish flowers in terminal clusters on upright branches and its reddish drupe-like fruits.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America from Lab. to AK, s. to VA, n. IN, IL, NM and CA.

STATE RANGE: There is one post-1980 record of occurrence in Ashtabula County. There are historical collections from Erie County.

HABITAT: Open habitats in sandy or rocky soil. Ohio populations were confined to the shores of Lake Erie.

HAZARDS: Destruction by development of natural beach and dune habitats; trampling of habitat, or invasion by larger woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor due to the limited original range of the species in Ohio and the paucity of natural beach communities along the shores of Lake Erie.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: This species can be identified in either fertile or sterile condition.

COMMENTS: Several varieties have been recognized in this circumboreal species. Ohio material may be referred to as var. *coactilis* Fern. & Macbr.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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