

ASTER DRUMMONDII Lindl.
Drummond's Aster

FAMILY: Compositae (Asteraceae)

SYNONYM: *Aster sagittifolius* Wedemeyer var. *drummondii* (Lindl.) Shinnery

HABIT: Perennial herb from a branched caudex or short rhizome; 4-12 dm.; flowering August-October; fruiting September-November.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Aster drummondii* is very similar to *Aster sagittifolius* and is treated by some authors as a variety of it (see Synonym). *A. drummondii* can be distinguished by the elongate, diamond-shaped, green tips of its phyllaries and the rough-hairy upper surface of its leaves. The phyllaries of *A. sagittifolius* have narrow, nearly-linear, green tips and the upper surface of its leaves is nearly glabrous.

TOTAL RANGE: OH to MN, s. to s. KY, MS, LA, KS, and TX.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from 6 counties: Harrison, Jefferson, Lucas, Pickaway, Stark, and Tuscarawas. There are pre-1980 records from Delaware, Fairfield, Franklin, Madison, Mahoning, Portage, and Wayne counties.

HABITAT: Open to semi-open situations, often in dry, calcareous substrates: prairies, open woods, woods edges, thickets; also on roadsides.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species due to succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering specimens, including underground parts.

COMMENTS: *A. drummondii* could easily be more frequent in the state than current records indicate. Although typical specimens may be readily identified, problems may arise due to the presence of apparent hybrids between this species and *A. sagittifolius* and *A. cordifolius*, which reportedly occur more frequently in recently disturbed areas (Steyermark, 1963). *A. drummondii* should be sought throughout the state, especially in the southern half. Some authors follow Shinnery (1941) in treating this taxon as a variety of *A. sagittifolius*. However, most recent authors consider it a full species. Steyermark (1963) briefly discusses this taxonomic controversy.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 261 p.

Shinnery, L.H. 1941. The genus Aster in Wisconsin. Am. Midl. Nat. 26: 398-420.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA.
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