

ASTER DUMOSUS L.  
Bushy Aster

FAMILY: Compositae (Asteraceae)

HABIT: Perennial herb to 1 m.; flowering August-October; fruiting September-November.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Aster dumosus* resembles *Aster ericoides* and *Aster vimineus* vegetatively. It is distinguished from these by floral characters.

TOTAL RANGE: s. ME to FL, w. to MI, also AK, LA

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from Erie, Henry and Lucas counties. There are pre-1980 records from Auglaize, Butler, Columbiana, Hamilton, Highland, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Mercer, Ottawa, Ross, and Van Wert counties. Not all of these records may be accurately identified.

HABITAT: Dry to moist, open situations in sandy soil: wet meadows, scrubby fields, and thickets.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good. It appears able to colonize disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: This species may be overlooked or misidentified due to its non-descript appearance and close resemblance to other species. It is reported as infrequent or probably rare in Indiana (Deam, 1940) and uncommon in Michigan (Von Faasen, 1971). It should be sought in open, sandy areas throughout the state. More research is needed to determine the true status of this species in Ohio. A number of poorly defined and doubtfully valid varieties of this species have been described. It is here treated as a single variable entity pending clarification of this confused taxonomic situation.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Deam, C.C. 1940. Authorized reprint 1970. Flora of Indiana. Verlag Von J. Cramer, S-H Service Agency, New York, NY. 1236 p.

Von Faasen, P. 1971. The genus *Aster* in Michigan. I. Distribution of the species. Mich. Bot. 10: 99-106.



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