

ASTER OBLONGIFOLIUS Nutt.
Shale Barren Aster

FAMILY: Compositae (Asteraceae)

SYNONYMS: *Lasallea oblongifolia* (Nutt.) Semple & Brouillet
Virgulus oblongifolius (Nutt.) Reveal & Keener

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

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Aster oblongifolius* can generally be distinguished from similar species of *Aster* by its sessile, oblong, entire leaves and glandular-hairy upper stem. Floral characters ultimately distinguish it.

TOTAL RANGE: PA and D.C., s. in the mountains to NC and n. AL, w. to ND, WY and NM.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from Adams, Belmont, Brown and Hocking counties. There are pre-1980 records from Athens, Butler, Fairfield and Washington counties. There is a dubious record from Mahoning County.

HABITAT: Dry, open, often rocky situations: bluffs, open slopes, and prairie remnants.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown if natural recovery is allowed, but presumed good if planted in its native habitat. Steyermark (1963) states that it is easily cultivated in the open in limey soils.

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

COMMENTS: New stations for *A. oblongifolius* should be sought on the rocky bluffs of the Ohio River and its tributaries, and in the prairie remnants of southern Ohio. It is a conspicuous species and its general state range probably is accurately known. Some authors split *Aster oblongifolius* into two varieties. Using this concept, the Ohio material seems to be the var. *angustatus* Shinnery. The typical variety would occur largely to the west of Ohio. Semple and Brouillet (1980a) have recently placed this and some related species in the separate genus *Lasallea*. Reveal and Keener (1981) demonstrate that the correct name for that genus is *Virgulus* (see Synonyms). The species is here treated under *Aster* pending further clarification of this complicated 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.

Reveal, J.L. and C.S. Keener. 1981. *Virgulus* Raf. (1837) an earlier name for *Lasallea* Greene (1903) Asteraceae. *Taxon* 30: 648-651.

Semple, J.C. and L. Brouillet. 1980a. A synopsis of North American asters: the subgenera, sections, and subsections of *Aster* and *Lasallea*. *Am. J. Bot.* 67: 1010-1026.

Semple, J.C. and L. Brouillet. 1980b. Chromosome numbers and satellite morphology in *Aster* and *Lasallea*. *Am. J. Bot.* 67: 1027-1039.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. *Flora of Missouri*. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1725 p.



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