

AUREOLARIA PEDICULARIA (L.) Raf. var. AMBIGENS (Fern.) Farwell  
Prairie Fern-leaved False Foxglove

FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae

SYNONYMS: *Gerardia pedicularia* L. var. *ambigens* Fern.

HABIT: Annual or biennial herb to 1.2 m.; flowering August, September; fruiting September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This is the only pubescent, yellow-flowered foxglove with deeply divided leaves in Ohio. The var. *ambigens* is distinguished from the typical variety by the presence of dense, stipitate-glandular hairs on the upper part of the plant. However, the two varieties intergrade and are not always easily separated.

TOTAL RANGE: Nw. OH to se. MN to WI and MN; other varieties occur in various sections of eastern North America.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Lucas and Wood counties. Bentz and Cooperrider (1978) cite pre-1960 specimens from Fulton County.

HABITAT: Sandy woods, thickets, prairie patches, and dunes.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Complete flowering material is required for identification; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: *Aureolaria pedicularia* has been found to be an obligate root parasite with a host preference for oaks (*Quercus* spp.) and to a lesser extent, species of the Ericaceae (Werth and Riopel, 1979). *A. pedicularia* var. *ambigens* prefers a more open environment than var. *pedicularia*, but should still be sought in open oak woods and on their margins and in heath openings of northern Ohio.

Some authors lump the genus *Aureolaria* and the related genera of *Agalinis* and *Tomanthera* within the genus *Gerardia*. This treatment is not accepted by most recent authors, however.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Bentz, G.D. and T.S. Cooperrider. 1978. The Scrophulariaceae subfamily Rhinanthoideae of Ohio. *Castanea* 43: 145-154.

Musselman, L.J. 1969. Observations on the life history of *Aureolaria grandiflora* and *Aureolaria pedicularia* (Scrophulariaceae). *Am Midl. Nat.* 82: 307-311.

Werth, C.R. and J.L. Riopel. 1979. A study of the host range of *Aureolaria pedicularia* (L.) Raf. (Scrophulariaceae). *Am. Midl. Nat.* 102: 300-306.



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