

AGERATINA AROMATICA (L.) Spach
Small White Snakeroot

FAMILY: Compositae (Asteraceae)

SYNONYMS: *Eupatorium aromaticum* L.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 4-8 dm; flowering August-October; fruiting September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This plant is very similar to *Ageratina altissima* (*Eupatorium rugosum*), but *A. aromatica* has notably thicker leaves, shorter petioles, and crenate leaf margins. *A. altissima* generally grows in the woods, and *A. aromatica* grows in open areas. The two species are known to hybridize, making identification more difficult.

TOTAL RANGE: Along the Gulf coastal plain from FL to LA, n., along the Atlantic coastal plain from FL to MA; inland in the Appalachians to s. OH.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from Adams, Gallia, Jackson, Muskingum, Pike and Scioto counties. Pre-1980 occurrences are documented for Fairfield, Morgan and Vinton counties. Clewell and Wooten (1971) cite a record from Hocking County. Some of these specimens may be hybrids.

HABITAT: A variety of well-drained open areas on acidic soils.

HAZARDS: Unknown; perhaps overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its generalized habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification. Note the habitat type as the very similar *Ageratina altissima* grows in shaded woods. Collect the roots as these may have taxonomic significance.

COMMENTS: Morphologically and chromosomally, this species is very similar to *Ageratina altissima*. Intermediates are common in southeastern Ohio, and some specimens appear to be hybrids. Other members of this genus are known to be agamospermic, and this may complicate the situation. This species should be sought throughout southern Ohio. It is easily misidentified and may prove more frequent than records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Clewell, A.F. and J.W. Wooten. 1971. A revision of *Ageratina* (Compositae: Eupatorieae) from eastern North America. *Brittonia* 23: 123-143.

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

Grant, W.F. 1953. A cytotaxonomic study in the genus *Eupatorium*. *Am. J. Bot.* 40: 729-742.

Kartesz, J.T. and R. Kartesz. 1980. A synonymized checklist of the vascular flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 498 p.

King, R.M. and H. Robinson. 1970. Studies in the Eupatorieae (Compositae). XIX. New combinations in *Ageratina*. *Phytologia* 19: 208-229.

Nelson, G.L., 2006, *Ageratina*. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico. 12+ vols. New York and Oxford. Vol. 21 pp. 547-551.

Sullivan, V.I. 1976. Diploidy, polyploidy, and agamospermy among species of *Eupatorium* (Compositae). *Can. J. Bot.* 54: 2907-2917.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 1/84 David Spooner, Allison W. Cusick, James Burns