

Arabis missouriensis Greene

Missouri Rock Cress

Family: Brassicaceae

Synonyms: *Boechera missouriensis* (Greene) Al-Shehbaz; *Arabis laevigata* (Muhl. ex Willd.) Poir. Var. *missouriensis* (Greene) H.E. Ahles

Description: A biennial up to 50 cm tall, glabrous to sparsely pubescent; basal leaves dentate to pinnatifid, persistent; creamy-white flowers in racemes; fruits 5-9 cm long, erect at first then becoming divergent.

Flowering: April to late May. **Fruiting:** May to late June

Similar Species: *Arabis missouriensis* is similar to *Arabis laevigata* and sometimes considered a variety of it. *Arabis missouriensis* has larger petals (5-8 mm) than *A. laevigata* and has a dense cluster of persistent, pinnatifid leaves.



Total Range: USA: AR, CT, GA, IA, IN, KS, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, NC, NH, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, VT, WI.

Ohio Range: Lucas County

Ohio Status: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

Habitats: Open sand barrens.

Threats: Overshading by woody vegetation from lack of fire.

Conservation Potential: Seed production is high. Most populations occur on protected land that is actively managed.

Inventory Guidelines: Collect fruiting specimens.

Comments: *Arabis missouriensis* is rare throughout most of its range (Natureserve 2007). It was recently discovered in Ohio in the Oak Openings region (Gardner et al. 2005). Additions occurrences have been documented since first reported for Ohio. *Arabis missouriensis* has lately been transferred into the genus *Boechera* by Al-Shehbaz (2003) based on molecular work.

The species seems to be limited to the Oak Openings Region in Lucas County. It may be found in the sand barrens in Erie County and possibly old beach ridges in Ashtabula County.

Visit the website http://www.missouriplants.com/Whitealt/Arabis_missouriensis_page.html for photos.

Selected References:

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