

***Aureolaria pedicularia* (L.) Raf. var. *pedicularia* (L.) Raf.**
Woodland Fern-leaf False Foxglove



ODNR Natural Heritage Program

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Synonyms: *Gerardia pedicularia* L.;
Dasistoma pedicularia (L.) Benth.

Description: Hemiparasitic annual or biennial herb. Many branched stem to 1m; puberulent to glandular-hairy; upper part of stem with scattered or no glands; principal leaves 3-6 cm, sessile or subsessile, pinnatifid, with 5-8 pairs of irregularly serrate or deeply cleft pinnae; flowers yellow (Gleason and Cronquist 1991).

Flowering: August - September

Fruiting: September - October

Similar Species: This is the only pubescent, yellow-flowered foxglove with deeply divided leaves in Ohio. The var. *pedicularia* is distinguished from var. *ambigens* by the lack of conspicuous glands on the upper stem.



Total Range: USA: CT, DE, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, WI, WV; **CAN:** ON.

Ohio Range: Athens and Jefferson counties.

Ohio Status: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

Habitats: Thin sandy or rocky soil, usually under oaks.

Threats: This species is vulnerable to woody plant succession and competition with other forbs. It appears to do better in areas without significant leaf accumulation. Excessive deer browsing is also a concern as it prevents the plants from setting seed.

Conservation Potential: Both locations for this species are on protected lands away from the threat of development. With consistent habitat management, the populations should persist.

Inventory Guidelines: Collect specimens with flowers or fruits.

Comments: This species is an obligate root parasite, mostly on oaks (Werth and Riopel 1979). This variety of *A. pedicularia* should be sought in southeastern Ohio, whereas var. *ambigens* has only been reported from northwestern Ohio.

Selected References:

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Ohio Natural Heritage Program

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