

BESSEYA BULLII (Eaton) Rydb.
Besseyia, Kitten-tails

FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae

SYNONYMS: *Wulfenia bullii* (Eaton) Barnh.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from basal rosette, flowering stalks to 4 dm; flowers May, fruits May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: An easily recognized species when in flower. However, the plant spends the first few years of its life as a rosette and is very difficult to recognize at this stage.

TOTAL RANGE: S. MI to MN, s. to OH, IN, IL and IA.

STATE RANGE: The species has only been collected once in Ohio, in 1904 near Dayton (Montgomery County).

STATE STATUS: 1980 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: In sun or semi-shade in well-drained openings such as prairies, pastures, young woods and cliff tops; often in gravel or calcareous substrates.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession; soil compaction by trampling.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; probably poor. However, the species is known to respond favorably to fire and to mowing and grazing.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering specimens only; leave non-flowing rosettes intact, avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: *Besseyia* blooms only for a short time and should be sought in May. By mid-July the flowers have disappeared and only the rosettes are visible. The species should be sought in southwestern and in northwestern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Created: 3/1985 Allison W. Cusick
Revised: 4/1993 Greg Schneider
Database Code: SPNP.979