

BUCHNERA AMERICANA L.  
Bluehearts

FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae

HABIT: Rough-hairy perennial herb to 8 dm.; flowering June-September; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Buchnera americana* superficially resembles the rare *Tomanthera auriculata*. The flowers of *B. americana* are small and dark blue, while those of *T. auriculata* are large and pink to purple. Non-flowering material of *B. americana* cannot be identified with certainty.

TOTAL RANGE: W. FL to TX, n. to NJ, w. NY, s. Ont., s. MI, IL, MO, and se. KS.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from Adams, Pike, and Jackson Counties. Pre-1980 specimens exist from Fulton, Lucas & Scioto Counties.

HABITAT: In full sun in well-drained, often rocky, openings and woodlands; prairies, pastures, roadbanks; at times on severely eroded slopes.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but perhaps good, as it is tolerant of moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for positive identification. Avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: When in bloom, this species is conspicuous and distinctive. It is not likely to be overlooked or misidentified. Populations seem to fluctuate in numbers of blooming individuals from year to year. This species seems very sensitive to successional changes in its habitat. Management is essential; it appears, to maintain Ohio's existing populations.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Argus, G.W. and D.J. White. 1983. Atlas of the rare vascular plants of Ontario: Part 2. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Canada. n.p.

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



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