

CARDAMINE PRATENSIS L.
var. PALUSTRIS Wimmer & Grab.
American Cuckoo-flower

FAMILY: Brassicaceae

HABIT: Erect perennial from short rhizome, 2-5 dm; flowers May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is somewhat similar to *C. bulbosa*. However, *C. bulbosa* has highly dissected basal leaves, whereas those of *C. pratensis* var. *palustris* are nearly entire. *C. pratensis* var. *pratensis* is a European adventive which occasionally is collected in Ohio. It has pink, but sometimes white flowers, terminal leaflets of basal leaves which are dentate and sessile cauline leaflets. The native var. *palustris* has white flowers, terminal leaflets of basal leaves that are entire and leaflets of cauline leaves contracted to a short petiole.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America s. to NJ, n. OH, n. IN and MN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is a Post-1980 record from Summit County.

HABITAT: Bogs, fens and swamps.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession; destruction of habitat by filling or draining of bogs and fens, or conversion of glacial lakes with bog or fen meadows to residential or recreational use.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor, potential habitat for this species appears to be very limited in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete specimens including basal leaves.

COMMENTS: This recently discovered species might be overlooked since it flowers early and resembles other species of *Cardamine*. The only known population of this species in Ohio occurs in the fen meadow on the edge of a glacial lake (Danielson and Bissell 1992). It should be sought in fens and bogs in northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Danielson, B.W. and J.K. Bissell. 1992. The first confirmed report in Ohio for *Cardamine pratensis* L. var. *palustris* Wimmer and Graebner. Ohio J. Sci 92 [April Program Abstracts]: 14.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Moehlenbrock, R.H. 1980. The illustrated flora of Illinois. Flowering plants, willows to mustards. Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale. 286 pp.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 4/1993 Greg Schneider