

CEANOTHUS HERBACEUS Raf.
Prairie Redroot

FAMILY: Rhamnaceae.

SYNONYM: *Ceanothus ovatus* Desf.

HABIT: Low shrub to 1 m.; flowering June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Closely resembles the common *Ceanothus americanus* (New Jersey Tea). In *C. herbaceus* the flowering peduncles are short and are mostly terminal; in *C. americanus* the flowering peduncles are elongate and are mostly axillary. There also are distinguishing seed characters.

TOTAL RANGE: VT and Que. to Man., s. to MA, GA, AR, and TX; sporadic in the eastern part of this range.

STATE RANGE: There is one 1980 record from Ottawa County. There are pre-1980 records from Crawford, Erie, & Lake.

HABITAT: Open, well-drained situations, often on sandy or rocky substrates; prairies, barrens, woodland openings. The Ohio population occurs on limestone.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: Despite its similar appearance to the common *C. americanus* (see Similar Species), the range of this species in Ohio may be accurately known. It has often been sought in northern Ohio, but with little success. It is presumed to be longer extant in Ottawa County. Moseley (1899) indicates that it was "frequent" in the nineteenth century.

This species is treated in many older manuals as *C. ovatus*. Brizicky (1964) demonstrates that *C. herbaceus* was validly published first and is thus the correct name.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Billington, C. 1949. Shrubs of Michigan. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 20. Bloomfield Hills, MI. 339 p.

Brizicky, G.K. 1964. A further note on *Ceanothus herbaceus* versus *C. ovatus*. J. Arn. Arb. 45: 471-473.

Moseley, E.L. 1899. Sandusky Flora. Ohio State Academy of Sci. Spec. Paper No. 1. 167 p.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimberger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 p.



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