

CONYZA RAMOSISSIMA Cronquist  
Bushy Horseweed

FAMILY: Asteraceae (Compositae).

SYNONYM: *Erigeron divaricatus* Michx.

HABIT: Diffusely branched annual herb to 3 dm.; flowering late June- September; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles the common horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), but is distinguished by its branched habit and smaller flower heads.

TOTAL RANGE: OH and s. Ontario, to MN, s. to AL and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Defiance and Wood Counties.

HABITAT: Dry, open, often disturbed areas: prairie remnants, fields, grazed pastures, along roadsides and railroads, and in waste places.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its variety of habitat and tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Although this species can be identified in vegetative condition, mature flowering or fruiting material is preferred.

COMMENTS: *C. ramosissima* is a weedy plant that often grows in disturbed habitats. Thus, it may have been overlooked by collectors. Steyermark (1963) states that this plant is poisonous to and avoided by grazing animals. It should be sought throughout the state, especially in southern and western Ohio. It may be overlooked due to its nondescript appearance.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1725 p.



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