

CORYLUS CORNUTA Marsh.
Beaked Hazel

FAMILY: Betulaceae

SYNONYMS: *Corylus rostrata* Ait.

HABIT: Shrub to 3 m; flowers April-May, fruits Aug.-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: In the vegetative condition, *C. cornuta* may be distinguished from *C. americana* (common hazelnut) by the lack of dark, gland-tipped bristles on the leaf petioles and internodes of young twigs. When in fruit, the long beak on the nut of *C. cornuta* is diagnostic. In addition, *C. cornuta* has sessile male catkins, whereas those of *C. americana* are on short, woody peduncles.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfdl. to s. B.C., s. to NJ, PA, OH, MO, KS, CO and OR, and s. in mts. to GA and TN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): The species was collected in 1954 in Ashtabula County. A single colony formerly grew near Jaybird in Adams County, but this site has been destroyed (Braun 1928, 1961).

HABITAT: Moist rich thickets, clearings, pine woods, woodland borders and riverbanks.

HAZARDS: Clearing of fencerow thickets, overshadowing by taller woody species as a result of succession; deer browsing (Huot 1974).

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly poor since Ohio is on the extreme edge of the species range, however *C. cornuta* reproduces rapidly when the forest canopy is opened and persists for a long time once established (Tappeiner 1971).

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature fruiting material is desirable for positive identification since vegetative characters may vary widely.

COMMENTS: This species is very common to the north of Ohio and is even considered a serious pest in some areas. It produces stems that spread and become rooted just below the soil surface. These stems may sprout vigorously producing large vegetative clones. They produce fruit only irregularly (Tappeiner 1971). Vegetative plants may be easily overlooked and the possibility exists that the species is still extant in northeastern Ohio.

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