

DESMODIUM ILLINOENSE Gray
Prairie Tick-trefoil

FAMILY: Fabaceae

HABIT: Perennial herb to 2 m.; flowering July, August; fruiting August, September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Desmodium illinoense* is very similar to other species of this genus, especially the common *Desmodium canadense*. *D. illinoense* has large persistent stipules and an inflorescence consisting of a long terminal raceme that is much longer than the branches of the panicle. *D. canadense* has narrow deciduous stipules and a more compact inflorescence usually composed of many racemes of nearly equal length.

TOTAL RANGE: s. Ontario to WI and NE, s. to OH, OK, and n. TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are pre-1980 records Columbiana, Erie, Licking, Lucas, Medina, Ottawa, Pickaway, and Ross.

HABITAT: Open to semi-open situations in very dry sandy or gravelly soils: prairie remnants, rocky open woods, and along roadsides and railroad tracks.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its natural tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Both fruits and flowers are desirable for identification and are usually available together after the middle of the flowering period.

COMMENTS: In its original habitat of prairie remnants and rocky open woods, this species probably is restricted to western and southern Ohio. However, it is apparently able to thrive in disturbed areas, such as along roadsides and railroad tracks, and in these habitats it could potentially occur throughout the state.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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