

DRABA CUNEIFOLIA Nutt.  
Wedge-leaf Whitlow-grass

FAMILY: Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)

HABIT: Annual or winter-annual to 2.5 dm.; flowering late April-early May; fruiting May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: All members of this genus are rather similar and are best identified by careful examination of the fruit. *Draba cuneifolia* most closely resembles *D. reptans*. *D. cuneifolia* has coarsely dentate basal leaves, while *D. reptans* has entire basal leaves, as well as a few cauline leaves.

TOTAL RANGE: FL to TX and n. Mex., n. to KY, s. IL, MO, KS, and CO.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Adams, Highland, and Pike counties. There are pre-1980 records from Montgomery County.

HABITAT: Dry, open situations, usually in sandy areas or calcareous cliff tops and prairies.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor. The Ohio populations are somewhat disjunct from the main range of the species to the southwest.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: This species is restricted to the southwestern portion of the state. However, it may be easily overlooked due to its diminutive stature. The early blooming period probably contributes to the lack of knowledge of this species. It may be more widespread than the few records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Easterly, N.W. 1964. Distribution patterns of Ohio Cruciferae. *Castanea* 29: 164-173.

Fernald, M.L. 1934. *Draba* in temperate northeastern America. *Rhodora* 36: 241-261, 285-305, 314-343, 353-371, 392-404.



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