

ERYSIMUM ARKANSANUM Nutt.
Western Wallflower

FAMILY: Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)

SYNONYMS: *Erysimum asperum* (Nutt.) DC. *Erysimum capitatum* (Dougl.) Greene.

HABIT: Biennial or perennial herb to 1.2 m.; flowering May-July; fruiting July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *E. arkansanum* superficially resembles *Erysimum cheiranthoides*, a garden plant that has escaped into waste places, cultivated fields, and roadsides. However, the flowers of *E. arkansanum* are much larger and more showy, with bright orange petals 15-25 mm. long. *E. cheiranthoides* has smaller flowers with yellow petals less than 10 mm. long.

TOTAL RANGE: OH to WA, s. to s. IL, MO, TX, NM, and CA.

STATE RANGE: One post-1980 record from Brown County. The only other report from the state is Sullivant's 1838 collection from Franklin County (Sullivant, 1840).

HABITAT: Semi-open situations on limestone bluffs, slopes, and outcrops.

HAZARDS: Casual picking of the showy flowers, digging of plant by wildflower enthusiasts; possibly dense overshadowing by woody species due to succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, presumed poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Only the aboveground part of the plant should be collected, the roots should be left in the ground. Avoid over-collecting and disturb the population as little as possible.

COMMENTS: When in flower this species is very conspicuous. Though perhaps misidentified, it is unlikely to be overlooked. The state range of this species may be accurately known. It is one of Ohio's most striking wildflowers. It should be sought in southern Ohio.

There is little agreement among authors concerning the nomenclature of this species (see Synonyms). Rossbach (1958) treats it as *E. capitatum*. It is here retained as *E. arkansanum* pending further research into this complex genus.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Rossbach, G.B. 1958. The genus *Erysimum* (Cruciferae) in North America north of Mexico - a key to the species and varieties. *Madrono* 14: 261-267.

Sullivant, W.S. 1840. A catalogue of plants, native or naturalized in the vicinity of Columbus, Ohio. Charles Scott, Printer, Columbus, OH. 63 p.



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Created: 2/1984 James Burns