

EUPATORIUM ALBUM L.  
White Thoroughwort

FAMILY: Asteraceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 4-10 dm.; flowering July-October; fruiting September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This plant can easily be confused with other white-flowered, sessile-leaved *Eupatorium* species, especially *E. rotundifolium*, *E. sessilifolium*, and *E. altissimum*. It also could be confused with *Kuhnia eupatorioides*. These species are distinguished by a combination of leaf and floral characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Coastal states from s. CT to c. FL and w. to MS, also inland in the mountainous regions to s. OH and e. KY and TN, and in AR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Jackson, Pike, and Scioto counties. Pre-1980 records are from Gallia County.

HABITAT: A variety of well-drained, open areas on acidic soils.

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

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

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for identification.

COMMENTS: This species displays extreme morphological variability throughout its range. There are diploid and triploid races and the diploids hybridize (outside Ohio) with *E. sessilifolium*. Many of the populations are thought to be agamospermic. There are very likely more populations of this species in southeastern Ohio, and they should be sought (along with possible hybrids) throughout that region.

If the treatment by Cronquist (1980) is followed, Ohio plants may be placed in the typical variety of *E. album* and possibly in at least one other variety as well. Until this taxonomic situation is more clearly understood, *E. album* is treated here as a single variable taxon.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. xv + 261 p.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Grant, W.F. 1953. A cytotaxonomic study in the genus *Eupatorium*. *Am. J. Bot.* 40: 729-742.

King, R.M. and H. Robinson. 1970. *Eupatorium*, a composite genus of Arcto-Tertiary distribution. *Taxon* 19: 769-774.

Sullivan, V.I. 1976. Diploidy, polyploidy, and agamospermy among species of *Eupatorium* (Compositae). *Can. J. Bot.* 54: 2907-2917.

Sullivan, V.I. 1978. Putative hybridization in the genus *Eupatorium* (Compositae). *Rhodora* 80: 513-527.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 1/1983 David Spooner