

GALIUM LABRADORICUM Wieg.
Bog Bedstraw

FAMILY: Rubiaceae

HABIT: Low, erect or ascending herbaceous perennial from a slender rhizome, 1-3 dm.; flowering May, June; fruiting July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is similar to *G. obtusum*, but *G. labradoricum* is smaller and has a more slender stem. *G. labradoricum* has also been mistaken for *G. tinctorium*. These two are similar in size and flower number and both have only one carpel maturing per flower. They are distinguished by the following characters: *G. labradoricum* has 4 leaves per whorl and they are reflexed. The peduncles appear lateral in fruit. *G. tinctorium* has 5 leaves per whorl, not as reflexed. The peduncles appear ascending in fruit.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland and Labrador to the Mackenzie R., s. to MA, NY, NJ, IN, and IA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Columbiana, Geauga, Portage, and Stark counties.

HABITAT: Restricted to open areas of sphagnum bogs, fens, and arbor vitae swamps.

HAZARDS: Draining of the habitat, overshadowing by woody plants through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good due to its rhizomatous habit, unless habitat is extensively disturbed.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for identification.

COMMENTS: This species may be overlooked due to its close similarity to other bedstraws. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio. It may be more frequent than the records indicate.

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