

GALIUM PALUSTRE L.  
Marsh Bedstraw

FAMILY: Rubiaceae

HABIT: Slender, matted herbaceous perennial, 2-5 dm.; flowering June-August; fruiting August, September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species may resemble *G. boreale* or *G. verum* in having a dense, many-flowered, terminal inflorescence. The latter two are erect plants, and *G. palustre* is a matted, reclining or weakly ascending plant. Non-flowering material cannot be identified with certainty.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland and Quebec to CT and NJ, and also in Europe.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula County.

HABITAT: Wet meadows and marshy stream banks.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; possibly good due to its tolerance of disturbance. The Ohio population grows in a seepage area of a pasture.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering 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.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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.

Hauser, E.J.P., Jr. 1964. The Rubiaceae of Ohio. Ohio J. Sci. 64: 27-35.

Rossbach, G.B. 1963. Distributional and taxonomic notes on some plants collected in West Virginia and nearby states. Castanea 28: 10-38.



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