

GAULTHERIA HISPIDULA (L.) Muhl.
Creeping Snowberry

FAMILY: Ericaceae

SYNONYMS: *Chiogenes hispidula* T. & G.

HABIT: Creeping woody vine with evergreen leaves; flowers May-June, fruits Aug.-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *G. hispidula* can be distinguished from other members of the Ericaceae by the following combination of characters: prostrate stems densely hairy; alternate leaves short-petioled and elliptic with brown bristles on the lower surface; berries white.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfl. and Lab. to B.C., s. to NJ, PA, MI, and MN, s. in mts. to NC.

STATE RANGE: The species was last collected in 1932 in Ashtabula County. There are additional historical records for Lake, Stark and Summit Counties.

HABITAT: Mossy hummocks and logs in swamp forests and peat bogs.

HAZARDS: Destruction of forest canopy by logging or development; the species is sensitive to fire and surface disturbance due to its shallow root system (Flinn and Wein 1977).

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; however the species could be rediscovered in northeastern Ohio swamp forests.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Species can be identified by both sterile and flowering material; avoid disturbing the shallow root system.

COMMENTS: This relatively inconspicuous species should be sought on mossy hummocks and logs in swamp forests in northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus OH. 362 pp.

Flinn, M.A. and P.W. Wein. 1977. Depth of underground plant organs and theoretical survival during fire. Can. J. Bot. 55: 2550-2554.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimburger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 pp.



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Revised: 4/1993 Greg Schneider