

GRATIOLA VIRGINIANA L.
Round-fruited Hedge-hyssop

FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous weak-stemmed annual, 104 dm., flowering May-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is confused with *Lindernia dubia*, *Gratiola viscidula*, and *Gratiola neglecta*. The genus *Gratiola* has flowers subtended by bracts. *Lindernia* lacks these bracts. Counting the "sepals", 5 or 7, will distinguish these genera. *Gratiola virginiana* has narrow based leaves in contrast to the broad-based leaves of *G. viscidula*. *G. virginiana* has shorter pedicels than *G. neglecta*.

TOTAL RANGE: NJ to OH, IL, and IA, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Ashtabula, Erie, Gallia, Jackson, Scioto, and Vinton counties. Pre-1980 records are from Clermont, Hamilton, and Lawrence counties.

HABITAT: Wet places of many types: stream margins, pools, ditches, swamps; generally in shade or semi-shade.

HAZARDS: Drainage of the habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature, flowering or fruiting material.

COMMENTS: Pennell (1935) divides the typical variety, which occurs in Ohio, from the var. *aestuariorum* on the basis of leaf, pedicel and flower characters. The variety *aestuariorum* occupies tidal habitats from NH to VA. However, Ferren and Schuyler (1980) do not believe that this variety warrants taxonomic status. This plant has two blooming periods, one in the spring and one later in the year from seedlings of the current year. There are very likely more records of this plant to be obtained in either southern Ohio or the Lake Plains of northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T.S. 1976. Notes on Ohio Scrophulariaceae. *Castanea* 41: 223-226.

Ferren, W.R. Jr. and A.E. Schuyler. 1980. Intertidal vascular plants of river systems near Philadelphia. *Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phil.* 132: 86-120.

Pennell, F.W. 1935. The Scrophulariaceae of eastern temperate North America. Monograph, No. 1, *Acad. of Nat. Sci., Phil.* xiv + 650 p.



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