

GRATIOLA VISCIDULA Pennell
Short's Hedge-hyssop

FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous rhizomatous weak-stemmed perennial, 106 dm., flowering June-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is confused with *Lindernia dubia*, *Gratiola virginiana* 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 viscidula* has broad-based leaves in contrast to the narrow-based leaves of *G. virginiana* and *G. neglecta*.

TOTAL RANGE: DE to SC, n. GA, and e. TN, and irregularly to s. OH, WV, KY, MO, and n. FL

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

HABITAT: Wet places of many types: stream margins, ditches, ponds, and swamps, in both sun and semi-shade.

HAZARDS: Drainage of the habitat and shading through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good since many new populations have been discovered.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering material.

COMMENTS: This plant is inconspicuous when not in flower, and there are likely more populations of this plant in southeastern Ohio.

Pennell (1935) recognized the variety *shortii* from the unglaciated Allegheny Plateau in s. OH and adjacent WV and from an unspecified site in KY as well as the apparently geographically distinct, typical variety from the Piedmont and adjacent Atlantic Coastal Plain from s. NC to nw. GA, n. to DE and MD. However, Spooner (1984) does not recognize these two varieties and notes that due to more recent collecting efforts there appears to be no geographic separation within the range of the species.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

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McCready, G.A. and T.S. Cooperrider. 1978. The Scrophulariaceae subfamily Scrophularioideae of Ohio. *Castanea* 43: 76-86.

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

Spooner, D.M. 1984. Intraspecific variation in *Gratiola viscidula* Pennell (Scrophulariaceae). *Rhodora* 86: 79-87.



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