

HEUCHERA PARVIFLORA Bartl.
Small-flowered Alumroot

FAMILY: Saxifragaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 1-4 dm.; flowering July-October; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is superficially similar to *Sullivantia sullivantii* and is distinguished by minute floral differences. The leaves of *S. sullivantii* are glossy and those of *H. parviflora* are thin and dark green. *H. parviflora* is also likely to be confused with *H. villosa*, which grows in similar habitats and blooms at the same time. *H. villosa* has noticeably larger and thicker leaves, however. In vegetative condition, *H. parviflora* resembles *Tiarella cordifolia* and *Mitella diphylla*, which are spring bloomers and grow in mesic woods.

TOTAL RANGE: WV to NC and AL, w. to s. IN, s. IL, MO and AR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Gallia, Lawrence, and Scioto counties.

HABITAT: In Ohio, this species appears to be confined to moist, shaded to semi-shaded sandstone exposures, either directly on the rock face or in soil directly adjacent to the rock.

HAZARDS: Exposure of the site by lumbering. This plant has extremely thin leaves that are subject to wilting.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor due to its specialized habitat. Establishment of new populations would probably depend on the availability of soil pockets on rock faces in protected coves, a habitat slow to regenerate after habitat destruction.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering or fruiting material but disturb the rhizomes as little as possible; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: The habitat of this plant could easily decrease in years to come through lumbering and coal mining, and the few Ohio populations of it may well decline. Although the general Ohio range is well known, new populations may be found in the proper habitats in extreme southeastern Ohio. Rosendahl et. al (1936) divided this species into two varieties. Under this treatment, Ohio plants are the var. *rugelii* (Shuttlw.) Rosend., Butt., & Lak, with the typical variety occurring to the south and southeast of Ohio. However, Wells (1984) does not recognize var. *rugelii*. Under her treatment, Ohio plants are of the typical variety with var. *puberula* (Mackenz. and Bush) Wells occurring to the west.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Spongberg, S.A. 1972. The genera of the Saxifragaceae in the southeastern United States. J. Arn. Arb. 53: 409-498.

Wells, E.F. 1984. A revision of the genus *Heuchera* (Saxifragaceae) in eastern North America. Systematic Botany Monographs 3: 45-121.



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