

HEUCHERA VILLOSA Michx.
Hairy Alumroot

FAMILY: Saxifragaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 2-8 dm.; flowering July-October; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is most likely to be confused with *Heuchera parviflora*, which grows in similar habitats and blooms at the same time. *H. parviflora* has noticeably smaller and thinner leaves, however. *H. villosa* is also similar to *H. americana* which blooms somewhat earlier and occupies similar habitats. In vegetative condition, *H. villosa* closely resembles *Tiarella cordifolia* and *Mitella diphylla*, which are spring bloomers that grow in mesic woods.

TOTAL RANGE: Irregularly distributed from the mountains of VA, and WV to SC and TN, w. to s. IN, MO, and AR; rare in w. PA and w. NY.

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

HABITAT: In Ohio, this species is known to grow on both sandstone and dolomite exposures, either directly on the rock face or in soil directly adjacent to the rock. It is generally found on moist shaded rocks, but is also known to grow in drier open exposures.

HAZARDS: Removal of vegetation shading habitat; lumbering, rock-climbing.

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 mature flowering or fruiting material; 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. Although the general Ohio range is well known, new populations may be found in the proper habitats in extreme southern Ohio. Some authors divide this species into three varieties. Under this treatment, Ohio plants are the var. *intermedia* Rosend., Butt., & Lak. The other varieties occur to the south of Ohio.

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. 1979. Interspecific hybridization in eastern North American *Heuchera* (Saxifragaceae). Syst. Bot. 4: 319-338.



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