

HYPERICUM BOREALE (Britt.) Bickn.  
Northern St. John's-wort

FAMILY: Clusiaceae

HABIT: Perennial herb to 4 dm.; flowering July-September; fruiting August- September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Hypericum boreale* is extremely similar to the common *H. mutilum* and to the scarce *H. canadense* and *H. majus*. The species distinctions in this group of St. John's-worts are further blurred by hybridization. These species can only be identified by careful examination of technical flower characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. and Nfld. w. to Ont., s. to VA, OH, IN, and IL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Portage, Stark, Summit, and Williams counties. There are pre-1980 collections from 8 other counties: Champaign, Defiance, Delaware, Geauga, Lucas, Mahoning, Montgomery, and Wayne. Not all these records may be accurately determined.

HABITAT: In wet, open to semi-open situations: shallow water, marshes, and peaty, sandy or mucky lakeshores.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of the wetland habitat, also over-shading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: It is possible that this species is more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It reportedly hybridizes with *Hypericum canadense* (Utech and Iltis 1970), and thus could easily be misidentified. It also could be overlooked due to its small size and the difficulty of collecting it in its wetland habitat. It should be sought throughout the state, especially the northern half.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T. S. 1995. The Dicotyledonae of Ohio. Part 2: Linaceae through Campanulaceae, Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 656 pp.

Utech, F.H. and H.H. Iltis. 1970. Preliminary reports on the flora of Wisconsin. No. 61. Hypericaceae-St. John's-wort family. Trans. Wis. Acad. Sci. Arts and Letters 58: 325-351.



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