

LECHEA MINOR L.
Thyme-leaf Pinweed

FAMILY: Cistaceae

HABIT: Suffruticose or herbaceous perennial, 2-5 dm.; flowering early to mid August, fruiting August-November.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Lechea minor* is similar to *L. tenuifolia*. Cauline leaf characters are useful to distinguish the two species. *L. minor* has narrowly ovate to lanceolate cauline leaves whereas the leaves of *L. tenuifolia* are narrowly linear. All members of the genus *Lechea* in Ohio are morphologically similar and technical characters are needed to ultimately distinguish the species.

TOTAL RANGE: MA and VT to s. Ontario and n. IN, s. to FL and LA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Athens, Henry, Holmes, Lucas, and Meigs counties. Pre-1980 records are known from Pike and Wood counties.

HABITAT: Usually in full sun in dry, sandy woods, clearings, roadside banks.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession, and compaction of the soil by trampling.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good due to its tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Fruiting material, seeds and cauline leaves are needed for accurate identification. Overwintering basal leaf shoots, produced late in the season, are helpful. Sterile material cannot be identified with certainty.

COMMENTS: This plant is inconspicuous and could easily be overlooked. It should be sought in areas where suitable habitats are frequent.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Hodgdon, A.R. 1938. A taxonomic study of *Lechea*. *Rhodora* 40: 26-69, 87-131.

O'Connor, M.A. and W.H. Blackwell, Jr. 1974. Taxonomy and distribution of Ohio Cistaceae. *Castanea* 39: 228-239.

Wilbur, R.L. and H.S. Daoud. 1964. The genus *Lechea* (Cistaceae) in southeastern United States. *Rhodora* 63: 103-118.



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