

LECHEA PULCHELLA Raf.
Leggett's Pinweed

FAMILY: Cistaceae

SYNONYMS: *Lechea leggettii* Britt. & Holl.

HABIT: Slender stems from simple caudex, 2-8 cm; fruits and flowers July-Aug.

SIMILAR SPECIES: All members of the genus in Ohio are very similar and difficult to identify. *L. pulchella* can be distinguished by the following combination of characters: outer sepals much shorter than the 3-nerved inner sepals, leaves with hard, shiny, conical brown tips, fruiting calyx less than 1.5 mm broad, obovoid and acute at base, and containing 2-3 seeds.

TOTAL RANGE: MA to s. Ont. and nw. IN, s. to DE, n. VA, and OH and s. on the coastal plain to FL and LA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Lucas, Portage, Stark, Summit and Wood counties. There are pre-1980 records from Henry, Mahoning, Ross, and Wayne counties.

HABITAT: Dry to moist sandy plains, shores, and open woods.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by taller species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, the species appears to respond well to disturbance and perhaps fire.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: This taxon was formerly known as *L. leggettii*, however an older Rafinesque name has been shown to have priority (Wilbur 1966). Ohio material may be referred to as var. *moniliformis* (Bickn.) Hodgdon. This species should be sought throughout northern Ohio and also in Ross and adjacent counties of south-central Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.

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