

LEDUM GROENLANDICUM Oeder
Labrador-tea

FAMILY: Ericaceae

HABIT: Evergreen shrub to 1 m.; flowering May, June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Ledum groenlandicum* is the only evergreen bog shrub in Ohio with dense rusty tomentose hairs on the undersurface of the leaves.

TOTAL RANGE: Greenl. to AK, s. to NJ, PA, OH, MI, WI, and MN; also Alta. and WA.

STATE RANGE: There is a post-1980 record from Portage County. There are pre-1960 records from Ashtabula and Lake counties. A 1933 record from Licking County is from introduced material (Braun, 1961).

HABITAT: Damp, acidic soils; peat bogs and wet shores.

HAZARDS: Possibly draining of bog, or overtopping by taller woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown if natural recovery is allowed, but presumed good only if rootstalks are placed in its native habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: This plant can be identified from vegetative material. Do not disturb its roots.

COMMENTS: Easily overlooked since it is about the same height as other evergreen, ericaceous bog shrubs.

Ledum groenlandicum is often found in drier sites in the shrubby bog zone. All acidic bogs should be carefully examined for its presence.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 362 p.

Jennings, O.E. 1909. The Labrador tea in Ohio. The Ohio Naturalist 10: 13.

Lovell, H.B. and J.H. Lovell. 1936. Pollination of the Ericaceae: IV. *Ledum* and *Pyrola*. Rhodora 38: 90-94.

Marchand, P.J. 1975. Apparent ecotypic differences in the water relation of some northern bog Ericaceae. Rhodora 77: 53-63.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimberger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 p.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 11/1983 Barbara K. Andreas