

LINARIA CANADENSIS (L.) Dumont
Old-field Toadflax

FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae

HABIT: Annual or biennial herb to 8 dm.; flowering April-September; fruiting June-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: When in bloom, this is a distinctive species that is unlikely to be misidentified. Non-blooming material cannot be identified with certainty. The common *L. vulgaris* is only vaguely similar to *L. canadensis*. The flowers of *L. vulgaris* are large and cream to yellow in color, while those of *L. canadensis* are small and pale blue to violet.

TOTAL RANGE: MA and even Quebec to MN, s. to FL and Mexico, and on the Pacific coast.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 collections from Lucas and Washington counties. There is a pre-1980 record from Crawford County.

HABITAT: Open areas; usually in sandy, acid soil: fields, floodplains, dry woods borders, and weedy roadsides.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably excellent due to its tolerance of disturbance.

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

COMMENTS: This is a species of disturbed situations, making it difficult to determine if populations are native or adventive. This difficulty extends to all but the southernmost portion of the range of *L. canadensis*. The southern plants often are treated as the var. *texana* (Scheele) Pennell. Using this concept, the Ohio plants are the typical variety.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Argus, G.W. and D.J. White. 1983. Atlas of the rare vascular plants of Ontario: Part 2. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Canada. n.p.

McCready, G.A. and T.S. Cooperrider. 1978. The Scrophulariaceae subfamily Scrophularioideae of Ohio. *Castanea* 43: 76-86.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 11/1983 James F. Burns, Allison W. Cusick