

LINNAEA BOREALIS L.
American Twinflower

FAMILY: Caprifoliaceae

SYNONYM: *Linnaea borealis* L. subsp. *americana* (Forbes) Hulten

HABIT: Trailing evergreen shrub with elongate stoloniferous stems and upright flowering stems to 10 cm.; flowering late May, June, fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: When in bloom, this species is distinctive. Non-flowering plants superficially resemble creeping snowberry (*Gaultheria hispidula*), which grows in similar habitats. The latter species can be identified by its pubescent stem and leaves with revolute margins.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; Var. *americana* grows across n. North America s. to NJ, WV, OH, IN, MN, and CA; rare and local in the southern limits of its range.

STATE RANGE: LAKE CO.: Painesville, n.d., H.C. Beardslee (OS). PORTAGE CO.: Nelson Ledge, 17 Aug. 1908, L.S. Hopkins (CM). Roberts & Cooperrider (1982) also report this species from Stark County, but the basis for this record is not known.

HABITAT: Mossy woods, bogs, shrub borders, and N-facing ravines; often in dense shade; frequently associated with conifers.

HAZARDS: Drying of the habitat through the opening of the canopy by logging; high summer temperatures.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature, flowering specimens.

COMMENTS: This species can easily be overlooked when not in flower. However, there is only a limited habitat available to it in Ohio. Such habitats have been well botanized in recent years without rediscovering this species. Twinflower may well be extirpated from the Ohio flora.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Salamun, P.J. 1979. Preliminary reports on the flora of Wisconsin. No. 68,
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