

NOTHOSCORDUM BIVALVE (L.) Britton
False Garlic

FAMILY: Liliaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous, bulbous perennial, flowering scape 1.5-3.5 cm.; flowering mid April-mid May and occasionally September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to other types of onions and garlic. *Nothoscordum*, however, has no onion-like odor whatsoever. Non-flowering plants cannot be identified with any certainty.

TOTAL RANGE: se. VA to s. OH, c. IL and KS, s. to South America.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams and Clark Counties. There are pre-1840 collections from Champaign County; see Stuckey (1966) for a discussion of these historic specimens.

HABITAT: A variety of moist openings, usually in rocky or sandy soil; roadsides, fields, pastures, prairies, open woods.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, as it seems to flourish in disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature, flowering material.

COMMENTS: This species is easy to overlook, even when in flower. The flowering period is quite brief and occurs very early in the spring. The flowers and leaves can be difficult to spot among the new growth of roadside grasses. Non-flowering plants are extremely difficult to locate. It seems to be restricted today to limited sections of Ohio. It should continue to be sought in southwestern Ohio.

This species apparently seldom sets seed and reproduces chiefly by vegetative production of basal bulblets.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Baskin, J. and C. Baskin. 1979. The ecological life cycle of *Nothoscordum bivalve* in Tennessee cedar glades. *Castanea* 44: 193-202.

Stuckey, R.L. 1966. The botanical pursuits of John Samples, pioneer Ohio plant collector (1836-1840). *Ohio J. Sci.* 66: 1-41.



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