

ORBEXILUM PEDUNCULATUM
False Scurf-pea

FAMILY: Fabaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Psoralea psoralioides* (Walt.) Cory

HABIT: Slender, erect perennial herb to 9 dm.; flowering May-July; fruiting June-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Orbexilum pedunculatum* slightly resembles and may be confused with the common weeds *Melilotus alba* and *Melilotus officinalis*. *O. pedunculatum* has blue flowers and long (to 7 cm.) leaflets, *M. alba* and *M. officinalis* have white and yellow flowers, respectively, and short (to 2.5 cm.) leaflets.

TOTAL RANGE: OH to IL and KS, s. to GA and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 collections from Adams, Jackson, Pike, Ross, Scioto, and Vinton counties. Pre-1960 records exist from Erie, Knox, and Lawrence counties.

HABITAT: A wide variety of dry to moist, open to semi-open situations; often in acid soils: open woods, wooded ridge tops, prairies, and in disturbed habitats such as abandoned quarries, roadsides, and railroad rights-of-way.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its variety of habitat and tolerance of disturbance.

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

COMMENTS: This species may be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It could easily be overlooked due to its weedy appearance and its occasional occurrence in disturbed habitats. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio, especially in the unglaciated region.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Freeman, F.L. 1937. The variations of *Psoralea psoralioides*. *Rhodora* 39: 425-428.

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.



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