

OXALIS MONTANA Raf.  
White Wood-sorrel

FAMILY: Oxalidaceae

SYNONYM: *Oxalis acetosella* L. ssp. *montana* (Raf.) Hulten

HABIT: Stemless perennial herb; peduncles to 15 cm.; flowering May-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Oxalis montana* is distinguished from other Ohio species of this genus by a combination of a stemless habit, white to pink flowers, and 1-flowered peduncles. *O. violacea* is also acaulescent, but bears several flowers per peduncle.

TOTAL RANGE: E. Quebec to NY, MI, WI, and Sask., s. in the mountains of NC and TN, widely distributed in Eurasia.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): A post-1980 record is from Belmont County. Pre-1980 records are from Ashtabula and Lake counties.

HABITAT: A variety of moist, mossy woods, frequently with hemlocks; tolerant of deep shade.

HAZARDS: Opening of the woodland canopy and drying of the forest floor.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumed poor unless planted. It can be grown in cultivation in Ohio under appropriate conditions.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering specimens; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: There is some taxonomic confusion concerning *Oxalis montana*. Some authors reduce it to a subspecies of the Eurasian species *O. acetosella* (see Synonym). Others segregate the American plants as *O. montana*. It is here treated as a species pending further research.

The current knowledge of the range of this species in Ohio probably is accurate. This species is distinctive and not likely to be overlooked when in bloom. Vegetative plants, however, may be more difficult to recognize.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T.S. 1995. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 2. Linaceae through Campanulaceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 656 pp.

Fernald, M.L. 1920. *Oxalis montana*. *Rhodora* 22: 143-146.



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