

PAXISTIMA CANBYI A. Gray
Cliff-green

FAMILY: Celastraceae

SYNONYMS: *Pachistima canbyi* Gray; *Pachystima canbyi* Gray

HABIT: Low evergreen shrub to 1-2 dm.; flowering late March-April; fruits never observed in Ohio.

SIMILAR SPECIES: A distinctive species that is unlikely to be misidentified. The linear, leathery leaves are particularly useful in identification.

TOTAL RANGE: W. VA to s. OH and e. KY.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams and Highland counties.

HABITAT: In partial shade in neutral organic clay soil associated with dolomite; commonly on bluffs and slopes overlooking streams.

HAZARDS: Disturbance of the cliff or slope habitat; trampling; rock climbing; soil compaction. Vigor of the population may be reduced by overshadowing as forest canopy matures.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably good only if planted in suitable habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature specimens, but do not unnecessarily disturb the underground parts. Avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: Braun (1961) states that each of the few patches of this shrub at the Ohio localities is perhaps a clone of great age. It is local throughout its range, most of which is in the drainage basin of the preglacial Teays River. Massey (1940) suggests that it should be sought more extensively in southern Ohio. It is doubtful that other localities for this distinctive shrub remain undiscovered and thus, the current knowledge of its range in the state probably is accurate. However, the shrub may be overlooked in summer when it is overtopped by taller vegetation. It is best to search for this evergreen species in winter or early spring when it is most conspicuous.

Wheeler (1943) briefly discusses the different spellings of the generic name (see Synonyms).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1941. A new station for *Pachystima canbyi*. *Castanea* 6: 52.

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- 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.
- Massey, A.B. 1940. Discovery and distribution of *Pachystima canbyi* Gray. Castanea 5: 8-11.
- Wheeler, L.C. 1943. History and orthography of the Celastraceous genus "*Pachystima*" Rafinesque. Am. Midl. Nat. 29: 792-795.



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