

PERSICARIA CAREYI (Olney) Greene
Carey's Smartweed

FAMILY: Polygonaceae

SYNONYM: *Polygonum careyi* Olney

HABIT: Erect-ascending, robust annual to 1.5 m.; flowers July-October; fruits August-November

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles other species of smartweeds, particularly *Polygonum lapathifolium* and *P. pennsylvanicum*. Carey's smartweed is distinguished from other Ohio smartweeds by its combination of fringed sheaths with spreading hairs, glandular peduncles and lenticular achenes. Submersed individuals might be mistaken for *Polygonum amphibium*, which also has lenticular achenes. The sheaths of *P. careyi* always are fringed, a character lacking in *P. amphibium*.

TOTAL RANGE: ME to Ont., s. to s. N.E., DE, e. PA, n. IN, WI, and MN.

STATE RANGE: ERIE CO.: Perkins, 8 Sept. 1895, E.L. Moseley (BGSU); Kimball, 12 Aug. 1920, E.L. Moseley (BGSU).

HABITAT: Moist, open to semi-open areas, often in sandy soil: swamps, thickets, riverbeds, sand prairies, and disturbed areas such as fields, meadows, clearings, recent barns, and cultivated ground.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species due to succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its variety of habitat and apparent tolerance of disturbance. However, its historical rarity and apparent extirpation from the state contradict this presumption.

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

COMMENTS: Considering its variety of habitat and apparent tolerance of disturbance, it is not readily apparent why this species is not more frequent. Deam (1940) states that it is very locally distributed but usually common where found. It could be overlooked or misidentified as some of the more common species of *Polygonum*. *P. careyi* should be sought in areas of suitable habitat throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Deam, C.C. 1940 - Authorized reprint 1970. Flora of Indiana. Verlag Von J. Cramer, 5-H Service Agency, New York, NY. 1236 pp.

Mitchell, R.S. and J.K. Dean. 1978. Polygonaceae (Buckwheat Family) of New York State. N.Y. State Museum Bull. 431. 79 pp.

Stanford, E.E. 1925. *Polygonum pensylvanicum* and related species. *Rhodora* 27: 173-184.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 3/1985 James F. Burns, Allison W. Cusick
Revised: 5/1994 Greg Schneider