

PHASEOLUS POLYSTACHIOS (L.) BSP.
Wild Kidney Bean

FAMILY: Fabaceae.

HABIT: Perennial herb with twining stems to 4 m.; flowering July-September; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Phaseolus polystachios* is very similar to *Amphicarpaea bracteata* and *Strophostyles helvola*. It is distinguished by technical flower or fruit characters.

TOTAL RANGE: S. ME to OH, IL, and MO, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Miami, Scioto, Vinton, Warren, and Washington counties. Pre-1980 records are from Highland and Pike counties.

HABITAT: Dry to moist open woods and thickets; roadside banks.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown if natural recovery is allowed, but it may be able to tolerate some disturbance. Probably excellent if planted in its native habitat. It is closely related to many cultivated forms and thus may transplant easily. Steyermark (1963) states that he has grown this plant from seed.

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 is easily misidentified and could be overlooked due to its twining habit. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio, especially in the unglaciated region.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1728 p.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.



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