

PHYLLANTHUS CAROLINIENSIS Walt.
Carolina Leaf-flower

FAMILY: Euphorbiaceae

HABIT: Glabrous annual herb to 5 dm.; flowering June-October; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Phyllanthus caroliniensis* can be distinguished from all other members of the Euphorbiaceae in Ohio by the following combination of characters: stems glabrous; leaves 2-ranked, nearly sessile, and alternate; and flowers small, borne in pairs from the axils of most leaves.

TOTAL RANGE: PA to IL and MO, s. to tropical America.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Pickaway, Pike, and Scioto counties.

HABITAT: A variety of moist, open to semi-open situations, usually in sandy soil: low woods, meadows, fields, and gravelly banks.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but probably overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession; also drying of the habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good since it often occurs in disturbed habitats.

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

COMMENTS: This species could be more frequent than current records indicate. It is a rather inconspicuous plant and thus easily overlooked. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio.

This plant apparently is somewhat weedy in habit. Steyermark (1963) states that it occurs in fallow or cultivated fields. The extant Ohio population occurs at the edge of a soybean field.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Webster, G.L. 1970. A revision of *Phyllanthus* (Euphorbiaceae) in the continental United States. *Brittonia* 22: 44-76.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

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