

PLANTAGO PATAGONICA Jacq.  
Woolly Plantain

FAMILY: Plantaginaceae

SYNONYMS: *Plantago purshii* Roemer & Schultes

HABIT: Annual herb from a taproot; flowering late May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *P. patagonica* resembles the common and weedy *Plantago aristata* Michx., and is distinguished from *P. aristata* by its inconspicuous bracts which are scarcely exerted from the woolly spike.

TOTAL RANGE: Native in the cordilleran region and in s. South America, introduced e. to IL and occasionally to the Atlantic states.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is one population extant in Williams County as of 1991. Two older records exist from Lucas and Wood counties.

HABITAT: Dry plains, openings, and prairies. The Ohio population occurs in the dry, sandy soil of an old beach ridge associated with pre-glacial Lake Warren, and *P. patagonica* grows with native species of xeric habitats such as *Krigia virginica* (L.) Willd., *Carex muhlenbergii* Schkuhr., *Panicum columbianum* Scribn., and *Panicum depauperatum* Muhl.

HAZARDS: Destruction of habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good, as the Williams County population occurs along the periphery of an abandoned sand quarry.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature plant.

COMMENTS: This species exhibits a curious and unexplained amphitropical distribution. North American plants of *P. patagonica* are apparently identical to the plants found in South America. If our N. American plants are considered to be distinct from those in s. America, the name *Plantago patagonica* Jacq. var. *gnaphalioides* (Nutt.) A. Gray is available.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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