

POLYGALA INCARNATA L.
Pink Milkwort

FAMILY: Polygalaceae

HABIT: Slender annual herb to 6 dm.; flowering June-August; fruiting July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *P. incarnata* is the only North American species of *Polygala* with the corolla at least twice as long as the wings. Its brilliant pink flowers are quite different from those of other Ohio milkworts.

TOTAL RANGE: L.I. NY to MI, WI, IA, and KS, s. to FL and TX.

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

HABITAT: Open to semi-open situations in dry, often sandy soil: open upland woods, woods borders, prairies, and old fields.

HAZARDS: Grazing; overshadowing by woody species due to succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, presumed poor. However, this species may respond favorably to moderate habitat disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect a complete, mature specimen but avoid over-collecting. A collection should be made only if the local population is large enough to withstand the taking of a plant.

COMMENTS: When in bloom, this species is unlikely to be misidentified or overlooked. Otherwise, it is difficult to see amid taller vegetation. It may be more frequent than the few records indicate. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T.S. 1995. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 2. Linaceae through Campanulaceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 656 pp.

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.

Miller, N.G. 1971. The Polygalaceae in the southeastern United States. J. Arn. Arb. 52: 267-284.



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