

PRENANTHES ASPERA Michx.  
Rough Rattlesnake-root

FAMILY: Asteraceae

HABIT: Perennial herb to 1.5 m.; flowering August, September; fruiting September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Prenanthes aspera* is superficially similar to *P. racemosa*. The stem of *P. aspera* is rough-hairy just below the inflorescence, its lower leaves are soon deciduous, and its flowers are cream-colored. The stem of *P. racemosa* is glabrous just below the inflorescence, its lower leaves are persistent, and its flowers are pink to purplish.

TOTAL RANGE: OH to MN and SD, s. to TN, LA, and OK.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams and Erie counties.

HABITAT: Dry, open to semi-open situations, usually in acid, sandy or rocky soil: open rocky woods, prairie remnants, barrens, and along roadsides and railroads.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good. Steyermark (1963) states that his attempt to grow this plant in a prairie habitat was unsuccessful. However, the variety of habitats, including obviously disturbed areas, in which this plant is sometimes found may facilitate its recovery.

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

COMMENTS: This is a conspicuous and easily identified species when in bloom. Vegetative material, however, can be overlooked. It should be sought throughout Ohio. It may be more frequent than the few records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. xv + 261 p.

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Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1725 p.



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