

PROSARTES MACULATA (Buckl.) Britt.  
Nodding Mandarin

FAMILY: Liliaceae

SYNONYMS: *Disporum schaffneri* Moldenke, *Disporum maculatum* (Buckl.) Britt.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial to 7.5 dm.; flowering mid to late April; fruiting late April to early May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Vegetatively very similar to Yellow Mandarin (*Disporum lanuginosum*) which grows in similar habitats. When in bloom or fruit, the species is unmistakable. The following characters can be used for identification: *D. lanuginosum*--plant pilose, flowers greenish, fruit a fleshy red berry; *P. maculata*--plant hispid, flowers white with dark spots, fruit a dry, hairy capsule.

TOTAL RANGE: Irregularly from nw. GA and ne. AL to w. NC, e. TN, w. MD, e. KY, and s. OH; disjunct in s. MI.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 collections from Adams and Scioto counties. There is a pre-1960 specimen from Pike County.

HABITAT: Mature, mesic woodlands; slopes, ravines.

HAZARDS: Opening of forest canopy; digging by wildflower gardeners; casual picking of attractive flowers.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor. It today seems to be absent from sections of its total range where it once was common.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering or fruiting material; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: A beautiful and conspicuous wildflower that is not likely to be overlooked. Though it is obvious when in flower, the blooming period is quite early and rather brief. Also, its habitat is rugged and access is difficult. Further searching may yet uncover additional populations in southern Ohio. Ohio plants have been described as a separate species, *Disporum schaffneri* Moldenke; most manuals do not consider the Ohio plants worthy of taxonomic status.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Johnson, R.G. 1968. Notes on the distribution of *Disporum maculatum* (Buckl.) Britton. *Castanea* 33: 262-266.

Jones, Q. 1951. A cytotaxonomic study of the genus *Disporum* in North America. *Contr. Gray Herb.* 173: 1-39.



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