

PYCANTHEMUM VERTICILLATUM var. PILOSUM Nutt.
Hoary Mountain Mint

FAMILY: Lamiaceae

HABIT: Erect, herbaceous, rhizomatous perennial to 1.5 m.; flowering July-September; fruiting August, September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Closely resembles *P. virginianum* and *P. verticillatum*. The leaves of var. *pilosum* are generally broader than the other two, but positive identification rests on technical characters of bracts and leaf pubescence.

TOTAL RANGE: VT to NC, w. to MI, IA, w. KS, and w. OK.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Hocking, Lucas, Meigs, and Montgomery counties. There are pre-1960 specimens from 11 other counties: Athens, Auglaize, Carroll, Clark, Clermont, Coshocton, Geauga, Jackson, Ottawa, Shelby, and Stark. Some of these populations, especially from eastern counties, are probably adventive.

HABITAT: Dry to moist woods, thickets, and clearings.

HAZARDS: Unknown; possibly overshadowing as forest canopy closes.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but apparently poor for native populations. However, adventive populations may appear in recently disturbed areas, especially in eastern counties.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering material. Make an attempt to determine if the population is native or adventive by noting habitat and associated species.

COMMENTS: The extreme decline in populations of var. *pilosum* and its reported hybridization with *P. virginianum* suggest that it is either a poor competitor or perhaps is being submerged by the formation of fertile hybrids or both. On the other hand, it may simply be under collected because of its similarity to common species. It should be sought throughout Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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