

RANUNCULUS AMBIGENS Wats.
Water-plantain Spearwort

FAMILY: Ranunculaceae

HABIT: Perennial herb; stems hollow, ascending, up to 1 m. tall; flowering June to September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Ranunculus ambigens* may be confused with *R. hispidus* var. *caricetorium* and var. *nitidus*, both grow in similar wet habitats, however, the later two taxa are repent and stoloniferous, respectively.

TOTAL RANGE: Maine w. to Minnesota s. to Louisiana, Tennessee, and Virginia.

STATE RANGE: Pre-1980 records from Clinton, Erie, Franklin, Gallia, Jackson, Lake, Lorain, Portage, Richland, Ross, Summit and Wayne counties; Post-1980 records from Geauga and Scioto counties.

STATE STATUS: Added-2002; Extirpated-2004.

HABITAT: Marshes, flood-plain channel ponds, swamps.

HAZARDS: Modifications to wetland hydrology and invasive species.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly good as it once occurred throughout Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering material.

COMMENTS: This species is mysteriously absent from most of its former range. Although there are a number of marshes and swamps remaining in Ohio, this species has been collected only once since 1982. Spearwort should be more frequent than current records indicate. It should be sought in wetland habitats throughout Ohio.

This species was recently added to Pennsylvania's rare plant list and currently ranked G4 by NatureServe (2003).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Flora of North America Committee eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico. 7+ vols. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford.

Mitchell, R. S. and J. K. Dean. 1982. Ranunculaceae (Crowfoot Family) of New York State. New York State Museum Bulletin 446. The University of the State of New York, Albany, NY. 100 p.



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