

RANUNCULUS FASCICULARIS Muhl.
Early Buttercup

FAMILY: Ranunculaceae

HABIT: Small, erect, herbaceous perennial, 1-3 dm.; flowering January-May; fruiting February-early June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species closely resembles *Ranunculus hispidus* and young individuals of *R. septentrionalis*. The best determining characteristic is the roots which in *R. fascicularis* are fusiform tuberous and under 5 cm., in *R. hispidus* are somewhat thickened and over 5 cm., and fibrous in *R. septentrionalis*. *R. septentrionalis* also differs in that it occurs in wet habitats. *R. fascicularis* tends to flower very early.

TOTAL RANGE: MA to s. Ont. and MN, s. to NJ, MD, WV, TN, LA, and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are known from Adams, Carroll, Clark, Columbiana, Erie, Jefferson, Lake, and Ottawa counties. Pre-1980 records are known from Lucas and Wood counties.

HABITAT: Calcareous soils of prairies, pastures, and dry, open woods; also on calcareous rock outcrops.

HAZARDS: Overshading in later successional stages.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably good. It seems tolerant of moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect the entire plant, including underground parts. Try to collect specimens with both flowers and fruits.

COMMENTS: Because of its close similarity to *R. hispidus*, this species may be undercollected and possibly more common than records indicate. This species has the same chromosome number as the more common species such as *Ranunculus hispidus* and *Ranunculus septentrionalis* ($n = 16$) (Keener, 1976), to which it seems closely allied..

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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