

SAGINA DECUMBENS (EII.) T. & G. ssp. DECUMBENS
Southern Pearlwort

FAMILY: Caryophyllaceae

HABIT: Low, matted annual, ascending or decumbent, 3-10 dm.; flowering March- June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species closely resembles the other members of this genus. *S. decumbens* differs from the common *S. procumbens* in the absence of basal rosettes, the stipitate-glandular stem, the annual habit, and the absence of sterile shoots.

TOTAL RANGE: Se. United States from MS, CT, and s. NJ, s. OH, s. IN, IL and se. KS, s. to n. FL and e. TX.

STATE RANGE: GALLIA CO.: Rio Grande, 1903 R. Brockett (OS). LAWRENCE CO.: Ironton, 27 May 1892, W.C. Werner (CLM, OS).

STATE STATUS: 1980 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Wet or dry sandy areas, field margins, open pine woods, roadsides, sidewalk cracks, and lawns.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species through succession, soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumably good, judging from the diverse and hostile sites inhabited by this species in the center of its range.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering material. This species may be more common than believed and is perhaps simply undercollected due to its inconspicuousness. It should be sought in extreme southern Ohio.

COMMENTS: Basically a plant of the Piedmont and Atlantic Coastal Plain, Crow (1978) writes that this species seems to have extended its range with civilization, especially in KS, OK, n. TX, AZ, Alb. and Sask. The other subspecies of this plant, *ssp. occidentalis* (Wats.) Crow, is restricted to the west coast. This obscure plant is easily overlooked. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Crow, G.E. 1978. A taxonomic revision of *Sagina* (Caryophyllaceae) in North America. *Rhodora* 80: 1-91.



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