

SOLIDAGO SPHACELATA Raf.  
False Goldenrod

FAMILY: Asteraceae

SYNONYMS: *Brachychaeta sphacelata* (Raf.) Britton.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from a short rhizome, 5-12 dm.; flowering and fruiting August-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles other goldenrods, especially *Solidago arguta* and *S. ulmifolia*; distinguished by pappus bristles which are shorter than the hairy achenes.

TOTAL RANGE: VA to GA and AL, w. to IL and TN.

STATE RANGE: A single population in Lawrence County was discovered in 1994.

STATE STATUS: 1996-1997: Added, 1998 to present: Endangered.

HABITAT: Open woods and rocky slopes, often on calcareous shale; full sun to semi-shade.

HAZARDS: Maturation of habitat with overgrowth by woody species; severe slope erosion or subsidence.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens with well-developed achenes.

COMMENTS: Though this species is easily overlooked due to its close resemblance to other goldenrods, it probably is very local in Ohio. Appropriate habitats in southeast Ohio should be searched for additional populations.

This species occasionally is placed in a separate genus because of its unusual pappus character; thus, the English name "false" goldenrod.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular Flora of the Southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. xv + 261 p.



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