

SIDA HERMAPHRODITA (L.) Rusby
Virginia Mallow

FAMILY: Malvaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 1-3 m., flowering July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is oftentimes confused with *Napaea dioica*, a plant very similar in size, habit, leaf shape and general appearance. This has led to confusion and misinterpretation in nomenclature and distributions of both of these species. *Sida* has perfect flowers and *Napaea* is dioecious.

TOTAL RANGE: c. PA to MD, VA, WV, e. TN, s. OH, and apparently disjunct in nw OH, ne. IN, and s. MI.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Brown, Clermont, Gallia, Hamilton, Lawrence, Meigs, Scioto and Williams counties.

HABITAT: Open to semi-open disturbed situations in sandy soils along rivers. All of the southern Ohio plants grow either along or very near the bank of the Ohio River. The Williams County site is near a stream.

HAZARDS: Severe flooding may be a hazard for low-lying populations. On the Potomac River, one population was eliminated and another was severely cut back after flooding resulting from Hurricane Agnes in 1972 (Thomas, 1979).

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown. Thomas (1979) reports a steady decrease in the number of known populations in the Atlantic watershed. On the other hand, it may be somewhat adventive in areas where it has been planted.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Good; the species seems to thrive in the naturally disturbed habitat along the Ohio River.

COMMENTS: There is a marked decrease in the number of known populations east of the Appalachians since the beginning of recorded observations of this plant. In Ohio, future searches should be concentrated along the Ohio River, and new Ohio River county records would be very useful.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Created: 12/1981 David Spooner