

SILENE CAROLINIANA Walt.
ssp. PENNSYLVANICA (Michx.) Clausen
Carolina Catchfly

FAMILY: Caryophyllaceae

SYNONYM: *Silene caroliniana* Walt. var. *pensylvanica* (Michx.) Fern.

HABIT: Erect, caespitose, herbaceous perennial from a taproot, 8-20 cm.; flowering May-early June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very closely resembles *S. caroliniana* var. *wherryi* from which it may be distinguished by the following characters: var. *pensylvanica* has a narrowly tubular, densely glandular-hairy calyx and densely glandular-hairy leaves; var. *wherryi* has a slightly broadly tubular, thinly to densely pubescent, eglandular calyx and thinly to densely pubescent, eglandular leaves.

This variety superficially resembles other members of the genus, from which it may be distinguished by its entire to slightly emarginate petals and narrowly oblanceolate basal leaves.

TOTAL RANGE: s. OH and KY to MO and n. AL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Columbiana, Jefferson, and Summit counties. There are pre-1980 collections from 3 other counties: Highland, Lake, and Lawrence.

HABITAT: Dry open woods, gravelly, rocky or shaley banks and clearings.

HAZARDS: Overshading as forest canopy closes; soil compaction; soil slumping and landslides.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown if natural recovery is allowed, but possibly poor unless planted in its native habitat. It can be transplanted successfully if the roots are not disturbed.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering material including underground parts.

COMMENTS: Many of the populations of this variety in Ohio consist of very few individuals. The status of these populations should be checked regularly.

The variety itself is conspicuous and not likely to be overlooked when in flower. Non-flowering plants, however, can be difficult to find and cannot be assigned to variety.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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