

SILENE CAROLINIANA Walt. ssp. WHERRYI (Sm.) Clausen
Wherry's Catchfly

FAMILY: Caryophyllaceae

SYNONYMS: *Silene caroliniana* Walt. var. *wherryi* (Small) Fernald; *Silene wherryi* Small

HABIT: Erect, caespitose, herbaceous perennial from a taproot, 8-16 dm.; flowering April, May.

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

This variety superficially resembles other members of this 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; MO; central and n. AL. The typical variety is found in the Carolinas with forms transitional to the var. *pensylvanica* in VA and MD.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Highland, Pike, and Scioto counties.

HABITAT: Rocky upland woods of calcareous region; also tolerant of slightly acidic soil conditions.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly soil compaction.

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 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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