

VACCINIUM OXYCOCCOS L.
Small Cranberry

FAMILY: Ericaceae

HABIT: Evergreen trailing shrub, 0.2-0.5 m.; flowering May-July; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Vaccinium oxycoccos* is similar to *V. macrocarpon* and occurs in the same habitats. *V. oxycoccos* has two small reddish bractlets above the middle of the pedicel and has strongly revolute leaves. In *V. macrocarpon*, the bractlets are green, located above the middle of the pedicel, and the leaves are slightly revolute.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; Greenl. and Lab. to AK, s. to Nfld., N.S., N.E., NJ, PA, OH, MI, and upland to VA and WV.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 records are known from Geauga, Portage, Stark and Summit counties. There are pre-1980 records from Ashland, Champaign, Lorain and Wayne counties.

HABITAT: Acidic sphagnum mounds in bogs, usually in drier areas of the bog.

HAZARDS: Unknown, probably overshadowing by tall shrubs as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; this plant seems more susceptible to disturbance than does *Vaccinium macrocarpon*.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect in flower or fruit, since sterile material is difficult to identify with accuracy.

COMMENTS: *Vaccinium oxycoccos* is a tetraploid derived from *Vaccinium macrocarpon*.

This diminutive species may be more frequent than the few records indicate. It is easily overlooked and seldom flowers or fruits prolifically. Indeed, once overtopped by taller vegetation it may persist for years in a non-flowering, leafy state. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 11/1983 Barbara K. Andreas