

VALERIANA ULIGINOSA (T. & G.) Rydb.
Swamp Valerian

FAMILY: Valerianaceae

SYNONYMS: *Valeriana sitchensis* Bong. subsp. *uliginosa* (T. & G.) F.G. Meyer

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial to 1 m. from a stout rhizome and basal rosette; flowers late May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles the European *Valeriana officinalis* and the native *V. ciliata*. Swamp valerian is distinguished from the former by its simple compound leaves and from the latter by its thin leaves and fibrous root system.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. to w. Ont., s. to NY, OH, IN, MI, and WI.

STATE RANGE: STARK CO.: low ground, Canton, 23 May 1896, L.D. Stair (CLM); boggy around, Canton, 16 May 1899, L.D. Stair (CLM). Both collections likely are from the same station.

HABITAT: Wet meadows, fens, and swamps, usually in calcareous substrates; often grows with tamarack and arbor vitae.

HAZARDS: Alteration of drainage; overgrowth by taller species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor; very few appropriate sites for this species occur in Ohio which have not yet been surveyed.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete mature specimens.

COMMENTS: The only Ohio site for this fen species has been destroyed by urban development. It has been sought unsuccessfully in similar habitats elsewhere in Ohio. However, it still should be sought in northeast Ohio. Swamp valerian is only obvious when in flower; vegetative material might easily be overlooked. Some authors treat *Valeriana uliginosa* as the southern subspecies of the circumboreal *V. sitchensis* (Meyer, 1951). The total range given above is for this southern taxon.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T.S. 1995. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 2. Linaceae through Campanulaceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 656 pp.

Crow, G.E. 1982. New England's rare, threatened, and endangered flora. US FWS and New Hampshire Agric. Exper. Sta., Dunham, NH. x + 129 p.

Meyer, F.G. 1951. *Valeriana* in North America and the West Indies (Valerianaceae). Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 38: 377-503.



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