

VIBURNUM RUFIDULUM Raf.  
Southern Black-haw

FAMILY: Caprifoliaceae

HABIT: Erect shrub or small tree to 10 m.; flowering April, May; fruiting June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to several other small-leaved viburnums, particularly *V. prunifolium* and *V. lentago*. Distinguishing features of *V. rufidulum* are its wide petioles, thick shiny leaves, and rusty-red tomentose buds. This combination of characters is absent in other Ohio viburnums.

TOTAL RANGE: S. VA. to s. OH, MO, and KS, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Adams, Brown, Clermont, Montgomery and Scioto counties. The species is known historically from Hamilton County.

HABITAT: Open woods or sunny banks in dry, rocky, calcareous soils.

HAZARDS: Overshading in late successional stages; browsing by deer.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Seemingly poor from the decline in reported populations, but Hutton (1972) reports a specimen found growing in a previously clear-cut area. Apparently this species responds well to the opening of the canopy by human activity.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering or fruiting branchlets.

COMMENTS: This is one of the most common shrubs in southern forests in the center of its range, where it is commonly browsed by deer with apparently little ill effect.

This species may be largely overlooked in southwestern Ohio. It may be more frequent than the records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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