

VIOLA PEDATA L.
Bird-foot Violet

FAMILY: Violacea

SYNONYMS: *Viola pedata* L. var. *pedata*
Viola pedata L. var. *lineariloba* DC.

HABIT: Stemless perennial herb to 1.6 dm.; flowering April-mid May; fruiting May, June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Viola pedata* can generally be distinguished from other stemless blue violets by its short, thick, vertical rootstalk, deeply pedately-cut leaves, and the absence of cleistogamous flowers during the summer. However, it is a highly polymorphic species, and non-flowering specimens cannot easily be distinguished from other species with deeply dissected leaves, such as *V. palmate*.

TOTAL RANGE: Se. ME, s. NH, e. MA to NY, MI, WI, and MN, s. to e. TX, MS, AL, GA, and SC.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from 4 counties: Adams, Fulton, Lucas, and Scioto. Pre-1980 records exist from Carroll, Henry, Lawrence, and Lorraine counties.

HABITAT: In well-drained, sunny, open situations, on rocky or sandy, often acidic, soil: open woods, fields, prairie remnants, along paths and roadsides, especially on road cuts through shales and sandstones.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession; digging of plants by wildflower gardeners.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its variety of habitat and tolerance of disturbance. Steyermark (1963) states that it can be planted successfully.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for positive identification; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: This is one of the most conspicuous of all our violets. In Ohio, *V. pedata* appears to be restricted to areas near Lake Erie and the Ohio River. More stations for this species should be sought in counties in these areas.

Several pre-1900 records exist from Lake County. Those specimens are from a population introduced prior to 1870. (Oh. J. Sci.:34(3):169)

Some authors recognize two varieties of this species. The typical variety is found in southern Ohio; the flowers are strongly bicolorous. The var. *lineariloba* occurs in northern Ohio; the flowers are concolorous. Russell (1965) treats *V. pedata* as a single variable species and does not recognize the status of these varieties.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Miller, L.D. 1976. The Violaceae of Ohio. Unpublished M.S. thesis, Kent State University, Kent, OH. 203 p.

Russell, N.H. 1965. Violets (*Viola*) of central and eastern United States: An introductory survey. Sida 2: 1-113.

Schaffner, J.H., 1934. Additions to the Revised Catalog of Ohio Vascular Plants. The Ohio Journal of Science 34(3):165-174.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA. 1725 p.



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