

WEISSIA SHARPII Anderson & Lemmon
Sharp's Green-cushioned Moss

FAMILY: Pottiaceae

CHARACTERS: Dense dark green to blackish tufts 1-4 cm high. Leaves (1.2-2.2 mm long) are broadly oblong-lanceolate, tapered to an apiculate tip, incurved or inrolled above.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The incurved leaves are characteristic of this genus. Plants of *W. controversa* are pale greenish to yellow-brown with smaller cells (5-8 um vs. 9-16 um in *W. sharpii*). *W. sharpii* overall is taller and forms larger tufts than *W. controversa*.

TOTAL RANGE: OH, KY, TN, GA, VI, AR, AL, MO.

STATE RANGE: Pre-1980 record from Green; post-1980 records from Adams.

HABITAT: Open dry bare soil in limestone and dolomite rock flats in cedar glades.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody plants through succession; possibly frequent hot fires to control successional growth of junipers and other woody plants.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good due to abundance of habitat and tolerance to disruption of rock pavement.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect only small samples of plants.

COMMENTS: This taxon is known from several collections in Adams County. Its habitat is limited and relatively abundant in Adams County. It is likely to be found at more localities in *Juniperus virginiana* glades.

Members of the family Pottiaceae tend to superficially resemble each other. Careful examination of microscopic features is necessary for identification.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Anderson, L.E. and B.E. Lemmon. 1973. *Weissia sharpii*, a new species from North America, with cytological and ecological correlations. *The Bryologist* 76: 131-143.

Crum, H.A. and L.E. Anderson. 1981. *Mosses of Eastern North America*. Volumes 1 & 2. Columbia University Press. NY. 1328 pp.

Osterbrock, A.J. and J.A. Snider. 1985. A checklist of the bryophytes of the Edge of Appalachia Preserve System, Adams County, Ohio. *Ohio J. Sci.* 85: 138-143.



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