

AMELANCHIER SANGUINEA (Pursh) DC.
Rock Serviceberry

FAMILY: Rosaceae

HABIT: Erect to straggling shrub or small tree to 3 m.; flowering May, June; fruiting July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Hybridization is widespread in this genus, making species recognition difficult. Of the four Ohio species of *Amelanchier*, two exhibit a low-shrubby growth habit and are somewhat similar. *A. sanguinea* is a straggling shrub, sometimes to 3 m. Lateral leaf veins are simple or 2-forked, ending in the teeth of the margin. Racemes are loose, open; the lowest pedicels becoming 15-30 mm. long. Branchlets reddish. *A. spicata* is a stoloniferous shrub to 1.5 m. Lateral leaf veins are curved forward and anastomosing before reaching the margin. Racemes more compact, the lowest pedicels becoming 7-15 mm. long.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. and ME to MN, s. to NY, OH, MI, and IA, and in s. mountains to n. NC

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Clark, Greene, Lake, Lucas, Miami, Richland, and Wood counties. There are pre-1980 records from 9 other counties: Athens, Erie, Fairfield, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Lorain, Muskingum, and Ottawa. Braun (1961) also lists this species from Franklin County. Not all of these reports have been verified.

HABITAT: Open woods, rocky slopes, gorge rims, river banks; primarily calcareous to neutral soils.

HAZARDS: Overshading through succession; browsing by deer, grouse and/or squirrels.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering branchlets and/or branchlets with immature fruit. Record growth habit.

COMMENTS: Members of this genus hybridize freely. These hybrids and intergrades are responsible for considerable confusion in species determination and are probably responsible for the wide differences in the numbers of species described by different authors. Wiegand (1912) and Gleason and Cronquist describe 8 species, Nielsen (1939) describes 12 species, and Fernald describes 19 species.

This species is easily misidentified. It should be sought throughout the state.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1961. The woody plants of Ohio. The Ohio State University Press, Columbus, OH. 362 p

Larson, J.S. 1974. Serviceberries. p. 98-101. In: J.C. Gill and W.M. Healy (eds.). Shrubs and vines for northeastern wildlife. USDA For. Serv. Tech. Rep. NE-9. 180 p.

Nielsen, E.L. 1939. A taxonomic study of the genus *Amelanchier* in Minnesota. *Am. Midl. Nat.* 22: 160-206.

Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimberger. 1982. *Shrubs of Ontario*. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 p.

Wiegand, K.M. 1912. The genus *Amelanchier* in eastern North America. *Rhodora* 14: 117-161.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 11/1982 David Emmitt