

ANDROSACE OCCIDENTALIS Pursh
Western Rock-jasmine

FAMILY: Primulaceae

HABIT: Dwarf annual, scapes 2-5 cm from a rosette of tiny leaves; flowering and fruiting late April-May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles various spring pinks or mustards; close examination of flowers is necessary to determine its true identity.

TOTAL RANGE: B. C. to AZ, w. to Man., n. IL, n. IN, and sw. MI; rare and local in the eastern part of its range.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Defiance, Fulton, and Wood counties.

HABITAT: In full sun in well-drained, exposed situations, such as ledges and sand barrens.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This spring ephemeral is easily overlooked because of its brief blooming period and its diminutive size. It should be sought in open, sandy sites throughout northwest Ohio. Few botanists visit these habitats early in the season. The Wood County population grows in a pioneer cemetery on a high post-glacial beach ridge.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

McGregor, R.L., T.M. Barkley, R.E. Brooks, & E.K. Schofield. 1986. Flora of the Great Plains, Univ. Press of Kansas, Lawrence. 1392 p.

Swink, F. & G. Wilhelm. 1979. Plants of the Chicago region. Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL. 922 p.



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