ARABIS HIRSUTA (L.) Scop.  
var. PYCNOCARPA (M. Hopkins) Rollins  
Western Hairy Rock Cress

FAMILY: Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)

SYNONYMS: Arabis pycnocarpa M. Hopkins

HABIT: Biennial herb to 8 dm.; flowering May, June; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Arabis hirsuta var. pycnocarpa is very similar to and may be confused with Arabis hirsuta var. adpressipilis. In var. pycnocarpa, the pubescence of the stem consists mostly of spreading, simple hairs; in var. adpressipilis, the hairs of the stem are mostly 2-pronged on a very short stipe, therefore appearing appressed.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. to AK, s. to PA, IN, KS, NM, AR, and CA, and in the southern uplands to n. GA. There are two other North American varieties that occur within the above range. The typical variety is Eurasian.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Butler county. Pre-1980 records exist from Adams, Butler, Erie, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, and Highland counties.

HABITAT: Moist to dry, usually calcareous, open situations: open woods, stream banks, ledges, cliffs, bluffs, and floodplains.

HAZARDS: Unknown, but probably overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good; it occurs frequently in disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for identification.

COMMENTS: This variety is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout Ohio. It may be more frequent than the few records indicate.

This variety is treated as a full species by Hopkins (1937). However, even the taxonomic status of this variety is in doubt. Many Ohio species of both var. adpressipilis and var. pycnocarpa appear to exhibit intergradation. More research is needed to determine the true taxonomic status of these and other varieties of Arabis hirsute.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

