

ARMORACIA LACUSTRIS (A. Gray) Al-Shehbaz.  
Lake Cress

FAMILY: Cruciferae (Brassicaceae)

SYNONYMS: *Armoracia aquatica* (Eat.) Wieg.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, the stems commonly submersed, the flowers and fruits emersed; flowering May-July fruiting June-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Flowering or fruiting plants are distinctive and not likely to be confused with any other Ohio mustard. This is the only Ohio mustard regularly found as a submersed aquatic. Vegetative material, however, cannot be identified with certainty and may easily be mistaken for other aquatics with dissected foliage, such as *Proserpinaca palustris*, which occur in the same habitat.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. to Mn, s. to n. FL and TX.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records in Auglaize, Madison, Mercer, Paulding and Van Wert counties. Pre-1980 records exist from Coshocton, Erie, Licking, Lorain, Lucas, Perry and Pickaway counties.

HABITAT: Shores of ponds, slow-moving streams, other quiet waters, usually in full sun.

HAZARDS: Mechanical disturbance of habitat; sudden changes in water level; overgrowth by other vegetation through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Flowering or fruiting material is necessary for identification; leave rhizome intact.

COMMENTS: This species formerly occurred over a wide area of Ohio. Recent searches for lake-cress in its former habitats have been in vain. This decline apparently is related directly to the destruction of suitable shoreline environment in the state. However, the species flowers erratically and vegetative material may be easily overlooked and/or misidentified. Thus, it still should be sought in suitable habitats throughout the state.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Easterly, N.W. 1964. Distribution patterns of Ohio Cruciferae. *Castanea* 29: 164-173.

McCormac, J.S. 1992. *Armoracia lacustris* (Brassicaceae) rediscovered in Ohio. *Rhodora* 94: 387-390.



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