

ASTER SURCULOSUS Michx.  
Creeping Aster

FAMILY: Asteraceae (Compositae)

HABIT: Perennial herb from a long, creeping rhizome, flowering stems to 6 dm; flowers late Aug-Oct.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles shale-barren aster (*Aster oblongifolius*) that blooms at the same time and may occur in similar habitats. The leaves of *A. oblongifolius* are disposed evenly along the stem and its flowers are usually deep purple; the leaves of *A. surculosus* are clustered near the base of the flowering stem and its flowers are usually pale blue.

TOTAL RANGE: GA and AL, n. to VA, NC, KY and s. OH.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from one site in Scioto County.

HABITAT: In full sun or semi-shade of forest openings, slopes, and borders in well drained soils.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody vegetation as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good since suitable habitat is common in southern Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering specimens; note the basal clustering of leaves and the long, running rootstalk.

COMMENTS: The only collection was made in the Shawnee State Forest. The area is sufficiently large that populations of the species may yet occur undetected. The species should be sought throughout southern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cronquist, A. 1980. Vascular flora of the southeastern United States. Vol. I. Asteraceae. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 261 pp.

Fisher, T.R. 1988. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 3. Asteraceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus. 280 pp.

Radford, A.E., H.E. Ahles and C.R. Bell. 1968. Manual of the vascular flora of the Carolinas. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. 261 pp.



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