ASTRAGALUS NEGLECTUS (T. & G.) Sheld.
Cooper's Milk-vetch

FAMILY: Leguminosae (Fabaceae)

SYNONYM: Astragalus cooperi Gray

HABIT: Perennial herb to 1.3 m.; flowering June, July; fruiting July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Astragalus neglectus is very similar to other species of its genus and to some species of the genus Vicia. It is ultimately distinguished by technical fruit characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Local, but widely dispersed around the Great Lakes: e. Ont. to MN, s. to w. NY, OH, s. MI, ND, SD, s. WI, and n. IN.


HABITAT: A variety of semi-shaded to open situations: lakeshores, stream banks, cool ravines; more rarely on limestone cliff ledges, limestone barrens, in savannas overlying limestone bedrock, or on steep, eroding shale slopes.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed not good due to somewhat restricted and unstable habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature fruits are necessary for positive identification. Some pods should be dried without pressing to preserve their characteristic shape.

COMMENTS: It is possible that this species is more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It is easily misidentified and it may be overlooked due to its somewhat weedy appearance. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio, especially in those counties bordering Lake Erie. Some authors refer to this plant as Astragalus cooperi (see Synonym). However, most recent authors, including Isely (1983), do not follow this treatment.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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