

CHENOPODIUM CAPITATUM Ascherson
Strawberry-blite

FAMILY: Chenopodiaceae

SYNONYMS: *Blitum capitatum*

HABIT: Erect annual or biennial herb to 6 dm; flowers May-Aug., fruits June-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *C. capitatum* is the only species of the genus in Ohio with large, succulent, bright red, globular fruits.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America s. to NJ, IN, MO, NM and CA.

STATE RANGE: This species was collected in 1888 in Geauga County and in Lake County (undated). Roberts and Cooperrider (1982) place this species in Summit County, but the basis of this report is unknown.

HABITAT: Sandy or gravelly (often calcareous) sites 1-2 years after disturbance such as: dumps, gravel pits, clearings, naturally disturbed gravel shores, limestone ledges and burned-over ridges (Voss 1985).

HAZARDS: Overshading by taller vegetation as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its variety of habitats and its preference for disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: Considering its variety of habitat and tolerance of disturbance, it is not clear why this species is no longer present in the Ohio flora. The species should be sought in appropriate, mostly disturbed habitat throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Roberts, M.L. and T.S. Cooperrider. 1982. Dicotyledons. In Cooperrider, T.S., ed. Endangered and threatened plants of Ohio. Ohio Biol. Surv. Biol. Notes No. 16: 48-84.

Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 59, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 724 pp.

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