

CROTON GLANDULOSUS L.
Northern Croton

FAMILY: Euphorbiaceae.

HABIT: Erect annual herb to 6 dm.; flowering July-October; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Croton glandulosus* is the only member of this genus in North America that has toothed leaves and 1 or 2 glands at the summit of the petiole.

TOTAL RANGE: Widespread in tropical and subtropical America, n. to VA, IN, IA, and NE, and adventive further north.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Athens, Hocking, and Washington counties. Pre-1980 records are from Jackson, Lucas, and Ross counties.

HABITAT: A variety of dry, open, often disturbed situations; usually in sandy soil: old river terraces, sandy open woods, fallow and cultivated fields, pastures, waste ground, roadsides, and along railroads.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession; soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably excellent due to its generalized habitat and tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: This species is readily identifiable throughout the growing season due to its toothed leaves, stellate-pubesence of the stem, and distinctive glands at the petiole summit. Still, fertile specimens are preferred.

COMMENTS: This plant may have been limited to open, periodically disturbed, sandy areas along the Ohio River in presettlement Ohio. However, its spread to other areas has obviously been facilitated by man's activities. It is quite possible that this species is more frequent than current records indicate. It should be sought throughout southern and northwestern Ohio, especially in disturbed areas.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Webster, G.L. 1967. The genera of the Euphorbiaceae in the south-eastern United States. J. Arn. Arb. 48: 303-429.



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Created: 1/1984 James Burns