

GALACTIA VOLUBILIS (L.) Britt.
Milk-pea

FAMILY: Fabaceae

HABIT: Perennial herb with twining or trailing stems; flowering July, August; fruiting August, September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Galactia volubilis* vegetatively resembles species of *Apios*, *Lathyrus*, *Strophostyles*, and *Amphicarpaea*. *G. volubilis* can generally be distinguished by its ascending stem-hairs as opposed to the retrorse stem-hairs of the others. Accurate determination requires critical examination of flower or fruit characters.

TOTAL RANGE: s. NY to s. OH, MO, and KS, s. to FL and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams and Pike counties. Pre-1980 records are from Butler, Gallia, Jackson, and Scioto counties.

HABITAT: Dry, semi-open to open situations: rocky open woods, wooded slopes, thickets, prairie remnants, fields, and barrens.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly good. It apparently tolerates moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is preferred for positive identification.

COMMENTS: This species may be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It is easily misidentified and could easily be overlooked due to its twining or trailing habit. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio in areas of the appropriate habitat.

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.

Steyermark, J.A. 1940. Determination of *Amphicarpa*, *Strophostyles*, *Galactia*, and *Apios* by vegetative characters. *Rhodora* 42: 213-215.



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