GALIUM LABRADORICUM Wieg.
Bog Bedstraw

FAMILY: Rubiaceae

HABIT: Low, erect or ascending herbaceous perennial from a slender rhizome, 1-3 dm.; flowering May, June; fruiting July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is similar to G. obtusum, but G. labradoricum is smaller and has a more slender stem. G. labradoricum has also been mistaken for G. tinctorium. These two are similar in size and flower number and both have only one carpel maturing per flower. They are distinguished by the following characters: G. labradoricum has 4 leaves per whorl and they are reflexed. The peduncles appear lateral in fruit. G. tinctorium has 5 leaves per whorl, not as reflexed. The peduncles appear ascending in fruit.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland and Labrador to the Mackenzie R., s. to MA, NY, NJ, IN, and IA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Columbiana, Geauga, Portage, and Stark counties.

HABITAT: Restricted to open areas of sphagnum bogs, fens, and arbor vitae swamps.

HAZARDS: Draining of the habitat, overshading by woody plants through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good due to its rhizomatous habit, unless habitat is extensively disturbed.

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

COMMENTS: This species may be overlooked due to its close similarity to other bedstraws. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio. It may be more frequent than the records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


