

GERANIUM BICKNELLII Britt.
Bicknell's Crane's-bill

FAMILY: Geraniaceae

HABIT: Simple to highly branched annual or biennial herb, 1.5-6 dm; flowers and fruits July-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species can be distinguished from other members of the genus by the combination of the following features: long-clawed petals less than 10 mm long, sepals with distinct awn-like tip (1-2 mm), mature pedicels distinctly longer than the calyx and with dense spreading hairs.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland and Quebec to British Columbia, s. to NY, PA, IN, MO, and SD.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula and Lucas Counties. There are pre-1980 records from Erie and Lorain Counties.

HABITAT: In dry, sandy or gravelly ground; open woods, clearings, and disturbed sites.

HAZARDS: Fire suppression; overcrowding by other species as a result of succession. This species tends to appear and then soon disappear from sites after disturbance.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good; this annual species appears to produce long-lived seeds that are released from the seedbank after burning. Hardin (1985) indicates that seeds may require exposure to heat before they can germinate.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete and mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species was not known from the Ohio flora until a 1929 specimen from Lucas County was correctly identified (Cooperrider 1982). It was presumed extirpated until rediscovered in 1984 (Hardin 1985). Since then the species has been collected at several sites in Lucas and Henry Counties. This species responds vigorously to disturbance, especially burning. It should be sought in recently burned sites in the Oak Openings region of northwestern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T.S. 1982. *Geranium bicknellii* and *Hackelia deflexa* added to the known Ohio flora. *Castanea* 47: 408.

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.

Hardin, E.D. 1985. *Geranium bicknellii* extant in Ohio. *Castanea* 50: 123.

McCready, G.A. and T.S. Cooperrider. 1984. The Geraniaceae of Ohio. *Castanea* 49: 138-141.

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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