

LIATRIS CYLINDRACEA Michx.  
Slender Blazing-star

FAMILY: Asteraceae.

HABIT: Perennial herb to 7 dm.; flowering July-September; fruiting September, October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Liatris cylindracea* can generally be distinguished from other Ohio species of *Liatris* by its few-headed to solitary-headed inflorescence. However, this feature is not always reliable. *L. cylindracea* is best distinguished by technical flower or fruit characters.

TOTAL RANGE: W. NY and s. Ont. to s. OH, n. IN, MI, MN, s. to MO and irregularly to TN and AL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Athens, Meigs, and Pike counties. There are pre-1980 records from Highland County.

HABITAT: Dry, open situations, in either limey or acid, sandy or rocky soils: open woods, prairie remnants, dunes and bluffs.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly good due to its variety of habitat.

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

COMMENTS: Although *L. cylindracea* occurs in western New York, southern Ontario, southern Michigan, northern Indiana, and southern Ohio, it is generally absent from the northern half of Ohio (Gaiser, 1951). The reason for this absence is not readily apparent and it deserves further investigation.

Among Ohio *Liatris*, this species is relatively distinctive. When in bloom it is very conspicuous, though vegetative specimens would be difficult to see amid surrounding vegetation. It should be sought throughout Ohio.

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