LIGUSTICUM CANADENSE (L.) Britt.
American Lovage

FAMILY: Umbelliferae (Apiaceae)

HABIT: Perennial herb to 2 m.; flowering May-August; fruiting July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Ligusticum canadense resembles Thaspium barbinode. L. canadense has white to whitish flower petals and a prominent stylopodium, whereas T. barbinode has yellow flower petals and no stylopodium. Non-flowering material cannot be distinguished with certainty.

TOTAL RANGE: S. PA and KY to GA and AL; also in s. MO and AR.

STATE RANGE: LAWRENCE CO.: dry woods in Minnow Hollow, 2 mi. sw. of Pine Grove, 25 May 1952, F. Bartley (OS). Roberts & Cooperrider (1982) state that this species was collected in 1952 in Scioto County; this is probably an erroneous reference to the above specimen. A Ross County collection cited in Cusick & Silberhorn (1977) actually is a misidentified Thaspium barbinode.

HABITAT: A variety of mesic woods and ravines; occasionally in drier oak woods.

HAZARDS: Unknown, perhaps removal of forest canopy.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good if planted in its native habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: L. canadense should be sought throughout southern Ohio. Because of its similarity to other umbellifers, this species may well be overlooked or misidentified.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

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