

PERSICARIA SETACEA
Bristly Smartweed

FAMILY: Polygonaceae

SYNONYMS: *Polygonum hydropiperoides* Michx. var. *setaceum* (Baldw.) Gleason
Polygonum setaceum var. *interjectum* (Baldw.) Gleason

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial with elongate horizontal rhizome; erect stem 0.4-1.5 m tall;
flowering July-September; fruiting September-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This variety can be separated from the common variety by careful
examination of the hairs on the upper leaf-surface and ocreae. It is similar to *Polygonum*
hydropiperoides but more robust.

TOTAL RANGE: Quebec to British Columbia, s. to South America.

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

HABITAT: Open shores of natural lakes and less frequently in swamp forests; often in alkaline
soils.

HAZARDS: Alterations to wetland habitats; overgrowth of woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete flowering specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: This species easily can be overlooked or misidentified. Also, the wetland habitats
where this species grows are difficult to survey. It may be more frequent in Ohio than
current records indicate. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout northern
Ohio.

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