

PRENANTHES RACEMOSA Michx.
Prairie Rattlesnake-root

FAMILY: Asteraceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 3-17 dm; flowers and fruits Aug.-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species can be distinguished from other members of the genus in Ohio by the following characters: heads clustered close to stem; corollas pink; stems and leaves glabrous and glaucous; main rachis of the inflorescence often soft pubescent.

TOTAL RANGE: Quebec to NJ, w. to Alberta and CO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Champaign, Clark, Erie, Greene, Henry, Logan, Lucas, and Portage counties. There are pre-1980 records from Marion and Wood counties.

HABITAT: Fens, wet prairies and meadows.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Good with protection and management of fens. It is vital to maintain open habits by controlling woody species.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete and mature specimens.

COMMENTS: Ohio material can be referred to as *var. racemosa*. This species generally occurs in glaciated portions of western Ohio and is very rare in northeastern Ohio. It should be sought in fens and prairies remnants in these parts of Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Fisher, T.R. 1988. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 3. Asteraceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus. 280 pp.

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.

Steyermark, J.A. 1963. Flora of Missouri. The Iowa State University Press, Ames IA. 1728 pp.



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