

RIBES GLANDULOSUM Grauer
Skunk Currant

FAMILY: Grossulariaceae (Saxifragaceae)

SYNONYMS: *Ribes prostratum* L'Her

HABIT: Sprawling shrub with reclining or ascending, unarmed branches less than 1 m; flowers May-June, fruits July-Aug.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species can be distinguished from other members of the genus by its erect or ascending racemes of flowers with glandular-bristly ovaries that develop into bright red, glandular-bristly fruits. The very similar *R. americanum* has drooping racemes of smooth-ovary flowers that develop into black glabrous fruits. These two species are easily confused in the vegetative condition. The bruised leaves and fruits of *R. glandulosum* and *R. lacustre* have a skunk-like odor. Although these species both have bristly fruits, they are easily separated by the spiny stems and dark purple to black fruits of *R. lacustre*.

TOTAL RANGE: Nfdl. to Mackenzie and B.C., s. to ME, VT, n. OH, MN and in the mts. to NC.

STATE RANGE: Hicks (1933) attributes the species to a boggy swamp in eastern Monroe Township of Ashtabula County. A 1931 specimen from this site was deposited at the Ohio State Herbarium, but is now lost or destroyed. No other specimens exist.

STATE STATUS: 1980 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Boggy woods and thickets, ravines and banks in deciduous woods.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of wetland habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor due to the limited amount of suitable habitat remaining in Ohio. Apparently the species does not transplant well (Billington 1949).

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is essential in identifying this species.

COMMENTS: This species may be overlooked due to its vegetative similarity to *R. americanum*. It should be sought in bogs and swamps in northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Billington, C. 1949. The shrubs of Michigan. Cranbrook Inst. Sci. Bull. 20. Bloomfield Hills, MI. 339 pp.

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Soper, J.H. and M.L. Heimburger. 1982. Shrubs of Ontario. Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada. 495 pp.

Spongberg, S.S. 1972. The genera of the Saxifragaceae in the southeastern United States. J. Arnold Arbor. 53: 409-498.

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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