VIOLA PRIMULIFOLIA L.
Primrose-leaved Violet

FAMILY: Violaceae

HABIT: Stemless perennial herb to 1.7 dm.; flowering early May-early June; fruiting June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Viola primulifolia is very similar and closely related to V. lanceolata. V. primulifolia can generally be distinguished by its usually ovate leaf blades. The leaf blades of V. lanceolata are lanceolate to linear. However, leaf shape in V. primulifolia exhibits considerable variation, and thus technical characters are used to distinguish these species. Fernald (1949) states that after the spring flowering season, V. primulifolia is easily distinguished by its habit of sending out prostrate stolons that are essentially leafless and sterile. The prostrate stolons of V. lanceolata have well-developed leaves and bear many cleistogamous flowers.

TOTAL RANGE: FL to e. TX, n. to ME, PA, OH, MI, IN, and OK.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Ashtabula, Jackson and Portage counties. There is a pre-1980 record from Scioto County.

HABITAT: In moist, open situations, usually on sandy soil: meadows, edges of ponds, streams, marshes, and swamps.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession; overdrying of the habitat.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good due to its variety of habitat.

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

COMMENTS: V. primulifolia may be more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. It could easily be overlooked due to its small size and similarity to V. lanceolata. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout the state.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

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