

CARDAMINE PRATENSIS L.  
var. PALUSTRIS Wimmer & Grab.  
American Cuckoo-flower

FAMILY: Brassicaceae

HABIT: Erect perennial from short rhizome, 2-5 dm; flowers May-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is somewhat similar to *C. bulbosa*. However, *C. bulbosa* has highly dissected basal leaves, whereas those of *C. pratensis* var. *palustris* are nearly entire. *C. pratensis* var. *pratensis* is a European adventive which occasionally is collected in Ohio. It has pink, but sometimes white flowers, terminal leaflets of basal leaves which are dentate and sessile cauline leaflets. The native var. *palustris* has white flowers, terminal leaflets of basal leaves that are entire and leaflets of cauline leaves contracted to a short petiole.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America s. to NJ, n. OH, n. IN and MN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is a Post-1980 record from Summit County.

HABITAT: Bogs, fens and swamps.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession; destruction of habitat by filling or draining of bogs and fens, or conversion of glacial lakes with bog or fen meadows to residential or recreational use.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor, potential habitat for this species appears to be very limited in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete specimens including basal leaves.

COMMENTS: This recently discovered species might be overlooked since it flowers early and resembles other species of *Cardamine*. The only known population of this species in Ohio occurs in the fen meadow on the edge of a glacial lake (Danielson and Bissell 1992). It should be sought in fens and bogs in northeastern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Danielson, B.W. and J.K. Bissell. 1992. The first confirmed report in Ohio for *Cardamine pratensis* L. var. *palustris* Wimmer and Graebner. Ohio J. Sci 92 [April Program Abstracts]: 14.

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