

DELPHINIUM EXALTATUM Ait.
Tall Larkspur

FAMILY: Ranunculaceae

HABIT: Tall, erect, herbaceous perennial, to 2 m.; flowering July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Delphinium tricorne* is a smaller plant, to 6 dm., which flowers much earlier than *D. exaltatum*, May to early June. By July, when *D. exaltatum* is beginning to flower, *D. tricorne* already has set fruit.

TOTAL RANGE: PA to NC, w. to OH, TN, and s. MO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Belmont, Clark, Franklin, Logan, and Pickaway counties. Pre-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Hocking, Marion, Ross, Scioto, and Stark counties.

HABITAT: Reported from a wide variety of habitats in sun to semi-shade including prairie remnants, dry and rich open woods, thin rocky soil, ravines, fens, and thickets. Most common on calcareous soils.

HAZARDS: This species is quite conspicuous and may be subject to casual picking or may be dug for gardens; overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; presumed good due to the abundance of seemingly suitable habitat; it is known to reproduce well from seed.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering individuals.

COMMENTS: This is a conspicuous species that is readily identified. Its Ohio range may be accurately known.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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.

Henry, L.K. and W.B. Buker. 1958. The Ranunculaceae of western Pennsylvania. *Castanea* 23: 33-46.

Keener, C.S. 1976. Studies in the Ranunculaceae in the southeastern United States. Part IV. Genera with zygomorphic flowers. *Castanea* 41: 12-20.

Kral, R. 1976. A treatment of *Delphinium* for Alabama and Tennessee. *Sida* 6: 243-265.



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