

PENSTEMON TUBAEFLORUS Nutt.
White-wand Beard-tongue

FAMILY: Scrophulariaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, 5-12 dm.; flowering May, June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles the common *Penstemon digitalis* that grows in similar habitats and blooms at about the same time as *P. tubaeiflorus*. However, the interior of the flower tube of white-wand beard-tongue is covered with glandular pubescence, a character shared with no other Ohio *Penstemon*.

TOTAL RANGE: OH to WI and NV, s. to MS, LA, and TX; also adventive in Ontario and northeastern US from ME to PA.

STATE RANGE: CLERMONT CO.: Milford, 1916, E.L. Braun (GH) (specimen cited in Pennell, 1935).

HABITAT: Open fields and pastures, in full sun.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by taller vegetation through natural succession; digging by wildflower gardeners; casual picking.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, most beard-tongues grow well in cultivation.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering specimens; press flowers carefully to preserve shape and slit some flowers open to reveal the interior of the corolla.

COMMENTS: Although this species is presumed indigenous to the Ohio flora, there is a possibility that the only specimen was from an adventive population. Pennell (1935), however, accepted the Ohio record as from the eastern limit of the species natural range. Because of its similarity to the common *Penstemon digitalis* (see Similar Species) it is possible that it has been overlooked or misidentified. It should be sought throughout western Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Cooperrider, T.S. 1995. The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 2. Linaceae through Campanulaceae. Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 656 pp.

McCready, G.A. and T.S. Cooperrider. 1978. The Scrophulariaceae subfamily Scrophularioideae of Ohio. *Castanea* 43: 76-85.

Pennell, F.W. 1935. The Scrophulariaceae of eastern temperate North America. Monograph No. 1. Acad. of Na. Sci., Philadelphia, PA. xiv + 650 p.



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