

VALERIANA CILIATA T. & G.
Prairie Valerian

FAMILY: Valerianaceae

SYNONYMS: *Valeriana edulis* Nutt. var. *ciliata* (T. & G.) Cronq.
Valeriana edulis Nutt. ex T. & G. ssp. *ciliata* (T. & G.) F.G. Mey.

HABIT: Perennial herb to 1 m.; flowering May, June; fruiting June-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: A conspicuous and distinctive species, unlikely to be misidentified. Somewhat similar to the alien *Valeriana officinalis*, but distinguished by its densely ciliate cauline leaves. All parts of *V. officinalis* are glabrous.

TOTAL RANGE: S. Ont. to MN, s. to OH, IN, IL, and ne. IA.

STATE RANGE: There are extant populations in Champaign and Logan counties.

HABITAT: Low peaty hummocks, fens, wet prairies, and borders of tamarack swamps.

HAZARDS: Drainage or alteration of the wetland habitat; grazing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor due to the small amount of suitable habitat remaining in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: There is some confusion as to the status of this particular taxon. However, whether this taxon is considered a species, subspecies, or variety (see Synonyms), all agree that its geographic range is well separated from that of *V. edulis* ssp. *edulis*, which is a plant of the western United States. *V. ciliata* is restricted to glaciated areas of the upper Midwest.

The present status and range of this species in Ohio may be accurately known. It is unlikely to be misidentified or overlooked, and there is only a limited area of suitable habitat remaining in the state.

The type locality is Cedar Swamp [Cedar Bog], Champaign County, where the species is still extant.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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