

DESMODIUM SESSILIFOLIUM (Torr.) T. & G.  
Sessile Tick-trefoil

FAMILY: Fabaceae

HABIT: Perennial herb to 1.5 m.; flowering July, August; fruiting August, September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Desmodium sessilifolium* can generally be distinguished by its nearly sessile leaves as opposed to the definitely petioled leaves of other species of this genus.

TOTAL RANGE: RI to s. Ont., MI, and KS, s. to PA, TN, MS, and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Fulton and Lucas counties.

HABITAT: Dry, open to semi-open situations in sandy or gravelly soil: prairies, open woods, and along roadsides and railroad tracks.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Both fruits and flowers are desirable for identification and are usually available together after the middle of the flowering period.

COMMENTS: This species seems to be restricted to the Oak Openings area of Lucas County where it may be quite frequent in appropriate habitat. It should be sought elsewhere in western Ohio. Due to its resemblance to other species of tick-trefoils, it may be overlooked or misidentified.

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.

Isely, D. 1955. The Leguminosae of the north-central United States, II. Hedysareae. Iowa State Coll. J. Sci. 30: 33-118.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 1/1983 James Burns