ERYTHRONIUM ROSTRATUM Wolf
Goldenstar

FAMILY: Liliaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from a deep-seated corm with short stolons, flowering scapes 5-20 cm.; flowering early to mid April; fruiting mid to late April.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Non-flowering plants cannot be distinguished from any other *Erythronium*. Flowering plants are easily confused with the common *E. americanum* that grows in similar habitats and in the same section of the state as *E. rostratum*. Flower differences are quite subtle. Mature, fruiting plants can be distinguished readily from other species of *Erythronium* by the prominent, persistent beak on the capsule. Also, the peduncle curves at maturity so that the capsule is tilted upward, not held horizontally nor drooping as in the other species.

TOTAL RANGE: N. LA and cent. AL, n. to se. KS, MO, and TN; disjunct in s. OH.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Scioto County.

HABITAT: A variety of mesic woods and ravines; Ohio populations are on beech flats and slopes in the valleys of small streams.

HAZARDS: Opening of forest canopy; digging of plant by wildflower gardeners; picking of attractive flowers.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown; the woods in which it occurs have been moderately disturbed, but also it is known to transplant very poorly.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature aboveground material only; leave the corm in the ground; avoid over-collecting.

COMMENTS: Despite many efforts to discover new populations, the state range of this species remains the stream complex in which Braun (1964) first found it in Ohio. The species blooms and fruits quite early and it is very similar to the common *E. americanum*, so that it may be overlooked rather easily.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1964. *Erythronium rostratum* in southern Ohio. Castanea 29: 185-186.

Parks, C.R. and J.W. Hardin. 1963. Yellow Erythroniums of the eastern United States. Brittonia 15: 245-259.

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