

SELAGINELLA ECLIPES Buck
Midwest Spike-moss

FAMILY: Selaginellaceae

HABIT: Prostrate, creeping perennial to 3.5 mm wide.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to the common meadow spike-moss (*Selaginella apoda*), differing in leaf venation and the sculpturing of the megaspores. Buck (1977) illustrates these characters. Fortunately, the two species rarely grow in the same geographic range.

TOTAL RANGE: S. Que., s. Ont., NY, MI, and e. WI, s. to IN, IL, IA, MO, AR, and e. OK.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Adams, Greene, and Highland counties. A pre-1980 record is from Butler County.

HABITAT: A variety of moist openings in calcareous situations; fens, meadows, and seeps; full sun to semi-shade.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by taller species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: Midwest Spike-moss was not described as a distinct species until 1977. The differences between this species and the common *S. apoda* are subtle, but consistent. Earlier reports of *S. apoda* from much of the Midwest now are known to be *S. eclipses*. The two species rarely overlap in geographic range. Any spike-moss seen in northwest Ohio probably will be *S. eclipses*. However, there also are no records of *S. apoda* from that part of the state. Midwest Spike-moss should be sought in fens and seeps in west-central Ohio.

The site in Butler County where *S. eclipses* was found in 1976 was searched in 1987 without success. Building construction has so altered the site that no suitable still exists.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Buck, W.R. 1977. A new species of *Selaginella* in the *S. apoda* complex. *Can. J. Bot.* 55: 366-371.

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Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 12/1987 Allison W. Cusick