

ACALYPHA VIRGINICA L. var. DEAMII Weath.
Deam's Three-seeded Mercury

FAMILY: Euphorbiaceae

SYNONYMS: *Acalypha deamii* (Weath.) Ahles
Acalypha rhomboidea Raf. var. *deamii* Weath.

HABIT: Annual herb to 1 m; flowering July-October; fruiting August-November.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species closely resembles the common *Acalypha rhomboidea* and *A. virginica*. Indeed it may be conspecific with these taxa (see Comments). All are distinguished by subtle, intergrading characters of leaf and flower characters. Deam's three-seeded mercury allegedly is the largest and most robust of these three taxa. However, *Acalypha ostryaefolia* also is a robust plant and grows in the same habitats as *A. virginica* var. *deamii*. It is easy to misidentify all these taxa.

TOTAL RANGE: S. OH, s. IN, and s. IL to TN and AR

STATE RANGE (as of 2006): There are post-1980 records from Brown, Clermont, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Preble, and Warren counties. There is a pre-1980 record from Washington Co.

HABITAT: A variety of moist, disturbed situations in semi-shade; streambanks, thickets, roadsides.

HAZARDS: Unknown; possibly natural succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but perhaps good as it tolerates moderate disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature flowering or fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: This taxon is poorly known throughout its range. Its taxonomic status also is obscure. It is treated as a species by Miller (1964) and Webster (1967) and as a variety of *A. rhomboidea* by Gleason and Cronquist (1991). Cooperrider (1995) subsumes *A. rhomboidea* into a broad concept of *A. virginica*.

More fieldwork is required to ascertain the true taxonomic status and geographic distribution of this taxon. It should be sought throughout the Ohio River Valley.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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