

CAKILE EDENTULA (Bigel.) Hook.  
Inland Sea-rocket

FAMILY: Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)

HABIT: Succulent, herbaceous perennial, 0.5-8.5 dm.; flowering July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This is the only succulent mustard in Ohio. This character and the unusual habitat, for that family, make it unlikely that the species could be misidentified.

TOTAL RANGE: Atlantic coast from s. Lab. to N.C., and along the shores of the Great Lakes; introduced on the Pacific coast and in Australia.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from 7 counties along the Lake Erie shore: Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Erie, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, and Ottawa.

HABITAT: In open sun or sand along the lakeshore; rarely reported from railroad embankments.

HAZARDS: Destruction of habitat by high water levels; mechanical disturbance of beach by such as off-road vehicles or bulldozers; overgrowth by woody species as beach stabilizes.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Very good; tolerant of moderate species.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Unlikely to be misidentified.

COMMENTS: Though this species occurs at many places along the lake, the species is threatened by continuing development of the littoral zone. Population size is quite variable; at some sites it may be locally common, while other stations support very few individuals. All populations are restricted to a narrow band directly along the lake. There is a nineteenth century collection labeled Mansfield; this is either a labeling error or a collection of an adventive population. Ohio plants are the variety *lacustris*. The typical variety has been reported as an adventive in Erie County.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Easterly, N.W. 1964. Distribution patterns of Ohio Cruciferae. *Castanea* 29: 164-172.

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.

Rodman, J.E. 1974. Systematics and evolution of the genus *Cakile* (Cruciferae). *Contr. Gray Herb.* 205: 3-146.



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