
PHLOX STOLONIFERA REDISCOVERED IN OHIO.

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Phlox stolonifera Sims., or as it is better known *Phlox reptans* Michx., was reported from Ohio by Riddell in his "Western Flora" in 1835 as occurring on "argilaceous hillsides." No more precise locality is given than the simple notation, "O., Ky." Since that time until the present season the plant has never been observed within the borders of the state and its known range, "The Allegheny region, Pa. to Ky. and Ga." gave no ground for expecting it in Ohio. For this reason Dr. Kellerman in making his "Fourth State Catalog of Ohio Plants" excluded it from the list. It was therefore a great pleasure to come upon a bed of it in full flower on Little Rocky Branch of Big Pine Creek in Hocking County, May 30, 1910, where it was growing in a deep cold Hemlock forest.

One is surprised that such a conspicuous plant as the present could have eluded the botanists so long. The reason is probably two-fold. The plant grows only in the wildest ravines in the most inaccessible part of the state. The place where it was first found has never been entirely denuded of its virgin timber. Moreover, it appears to flower rather infrequently as may be seen from the circumstances attending the discovery. The writer in company with Mr. B. B. Fulton had spent four days camping in the hills and had been tramping continuously through exactly similar country but it was not seen until the afternoon of the last day when two patches, the first flowering and the second not, were found. Later in the summer, however, after the vegetative stage of the plant had become familiar it was found to be common in similar situations all through the region traversed on the earlier trip. Had blossoms been abundant it could hardly have been overlooked, for on account of its stoloniferous habit, it everywhere grows in large beds. It must be remarked, however, that the spring of 1910 was marked by very severe frosts which destroyed the fruit crop, and may have adversely affected the buds of this plant so that further observations will be necessary to determine whether the lack of flowers was a usual or an accidental phenomenon.

Except for the Ohio station the species seems to be narrowly limited to the mountains. It also appears to be rare throughout most of its range, unless perhaps in Pennsylvania where it is cited by Porter without comment from five of the mountain counties. It does not extend into New York, however, but becomes rare before the northern boundary of Pennsylvania is reached. Dudley in the Lackawanna Flora knew of but two stations, Kingston and Forty Fort, from the first of which he cites a single plant and from the second a single bed. It occurs in the mountains which form the boundary between Kentucky and Virginia, being reported from near the line in both states. In Tennessee, Gattinger cites but one locality, Ducktown, Polk Co., and significantly adds another in southwestern Virginia. There are several stations in the mountains of western North Carolina. It reaches its southernmost limit in Alabama where it is reported from only one county Cullman, by Mohr, with the notation, "rare." If the species is as rare through its whole range as these citations would seem to indicate, it is a noteworthy exception to the general rule. In nearly all cases the "rare plants" of any region are merely on the edges of their ranges and in the proper places are common enough.