

BRIEF NOTE

A CURRANT NEW TO OHIO: *RIBES TRISTE* PALL.¹

JAMES K. BISSELL, Botany Department, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Cleveland, OH 44106

OHIO J. SCI. 84 (5): 268-269, 1984

Swamp red currant (*Ribes triste* Pall.), a cool woods species which ranges from Alaska to southern Labrador southward into Oregon, Minnesota, Michigan, northern Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey and West Virginia (Fernald 1950) has been discovered recently in northeastern Ohio with three sites in Geauga Co. and one site in Ashtabula Co. Two of the Geauga Co. voucher specimens, (Bissell 1984:7) from Montville Twp. and (Bissell 1984:24) from Hambden Twp. were collected from rather open swamp forests during the spring of 1984. The Ashtabula Co. specimen (Bissell 1983:26) was taken from a swamp forest within Denmark Twp. during the spring of 1983. The first collection of the species in Ohio (Bissell 1980:13) was made within a Sharon Conglomerate ravine in Claridon Twp., Geauga Co. during the spring of 1980. The Claridon Twp. and Denmark Twp. specimens have been annotated by A. A. Reznicek at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

R. triste is extant in Pennsylvania adjacent to Ashtabula Co. A specimen (Bissell 1984:120) was taken from a swamp forest in Crawford Co., Pa. during the summer of 1984. There are nine other county records for *R. triste* in Pennsylvania scattered across the northern portion of the state (Wherry et al. 1979). There are two county records for *R. triste* from West Virginia, but the species has not been observed in West Virginia since 1946 (Clarkson et al. 1981).

R. triste is locally common at the three Ohio swamp forest sites (Denmark, Hambden, Montville) in partial shade on low

hummocks between large woodland pools. Within all three swamp forests, *R. triste* forms low, sprawling clones on the hummocks. *R. triste* is most common at the Montville Twp. site with clones scattered throughout several hundred acres of swamp forest and also along beaver pond shores. The young, mixed forest canopies at all three swamp forest sites are composed primarily of red maple (*Acer rubrum* L.), yellow birch (*Betula lutea* Michx. f.) and sour gum (*Nyssa sylvatica* Marsh.). A single clone of *R. triste* occurs at the Claridon Twp., Geauga Co. site in a narrow floodplain through a hemlock-mixed hardwood Sharon Conglomerate ravine. In common with the three swamp forest sites, *R. triste* grows in partial shade at the Claridon Twp. ravine site.

R. triste is similar to garden currant (*R. rubrum* L.) {SYN. *R. sativum* (Reichenb.) Syme according to Kartesz and Kartesz 1980}; however, *R. triste* is prostrate and straggling in contrast to the upright nature of *R. rubrum* L. The pedicels of *R. triste* have capitate glands, and the pedicels of *R. rubrum* generally lack glands. The close proximity of the anther-sacs in *R. triste* is perhaps the best feature for separating the two species. In contrast to the nearly adjacent anther-sacs of *R. triste*, the anther-sacs of *R. rubrum* are separated by a connective as broad as the sac (Gleason and Cronquist 1963).

LITERATURE CITED

- Clarkson, R., V. Evans, R. Fortney, W. Grafton and L. Rader 1981 Rare and endangered vascular plant species in West Virginia. West Virginia Dept. Nat. Res. and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv. 76 p.
- Fernald, M. L. 1950 Gray's manual of botany, 8th ed., Amer. Book Co., NY. 1632 p.
- Gleason, H. A. and A. Cronquist 1963 Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States

¹Manuscript received 29 March 1984 and in revised form 6 September 1984 (#84-14).

- and adjacent Canada. D. Van Nostrand Co., NY. 810 p.
- Kartesz, J. T. and R. Kartesz 1980 A synonymized checklist of the vascular flora of the United States, Canada and Greenland. Volume II. Univ. North Carolina Press. 498 p.
- Wherry, E. T., J. M. Fogg, Jr. and H. A. Wahl 1979 Atlas of the flora of Pennsylvania. The Morris Arboretum, Univ. Penn., Philadelphia, PA. 390 p.