

BRIEF NOTE

New Records of the Flora of Lorain County, Ohio¹

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ABSTRACT. A floral survey of the Lorain County Metro Parks and non-park areas was conducted from mid-March to mid-September 1993 to aid in the development of management plans. A total of 734 species was documented for the county. Of these, 687 of the 1,229 (55.9%) historically recorded species were vouchered, along with 47 new species not previously recorded. The new species are presented in this report. This brings the number of floral species of the county to at least 1,276 species.

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INTRODUCTION

Lorain County is located in north central Ohio, on the southern coast of Lake Erie. In 1990, a total of 271,126 people occupied the 316,474 acres of the county (Carney 1993). The northern portion of the county is urbanized with 47% of the population found in two cities while the central and southern areas are relatively unpopulated. This southern portion of the county is predominantly composed of agricultural fields.

A detailed vascular flora of Lorain County has never been published. Ives (1940) examined the county's woody flora in 1940s. Camden (Bog) Lake, in Camden Township, was recently evaluated by Mossman (1972). The best, most complete reference for the floral species found in the county is Andreas' study of the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau region of Ohio (1989). A total of 1,229 species and six varieties were reported. White (1982) divided Lorain County into the northern Lake Plain, the central and western Till Plains, and the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau. The Plateau was defined as the western boundary of the Allegheny Front Escarpment. Andreas (1989) included the Plateau and much of White's Till Plain area in her evaluation of vascular species. The flora of the Lake Plain region was also included in Andreas' Appendix A. Thus, virtually all of the county was included in Andreas' report (1989).

In 1993, the Lorain County Metro Parks began to record the floristic communities of the different reservations to aid in the development of management plans. In doing so, a listing of flora of the reservations and the county was begun. Though the concentration was on reservations, unique plants from elsewhere in the county were also included. This paper includes the initial inventory.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Five to six weekly surveys were conducted from mid-March to mid-September of 1993. These surveys were conducted by random wandering trips to visit all the different habitats and all park reservations (Fig. 1). These were visited during the different seasons of the year. Special attention was given to areas that were previously under-explored. Non-park areas were less frequently visited and included the Lake Erie shoreline, Camden

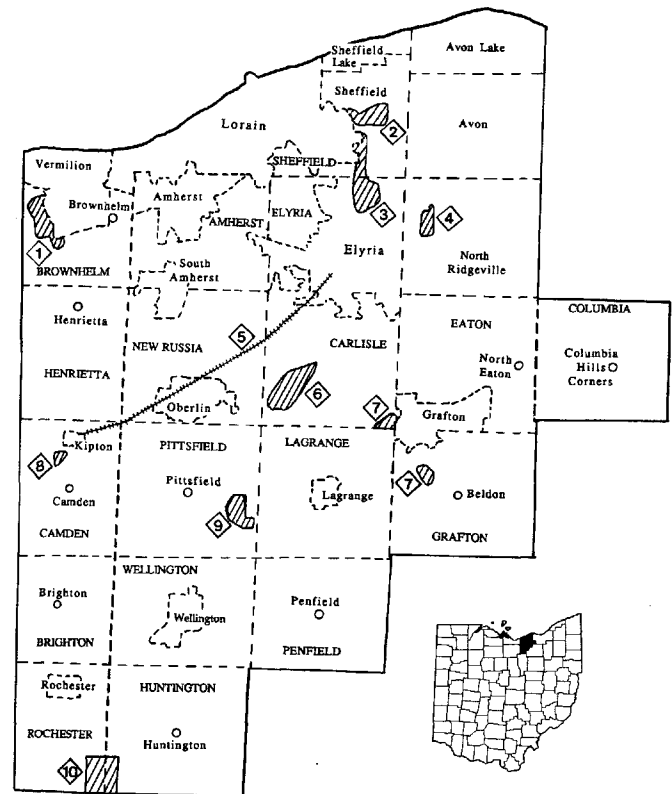


FIGURE 1. Main Lorain County Metro Park survey areas in Lorain County, OH: 1) Vermilion River, 2) French Creek, 3) Black River, 4) North Ridgeville, 5) Rail Trail, 6) Carlisle, 7) Indian Hollow, 8) Camden (Bog) Lake, 9) Wellington Creek, 10) Charlemont.

Lake, railway right-of-ways, roadsides, urban areas, and private lands. A specimen of each new plant observed was collected, and a voucher specimen was made. These were deposited in the herbaria of the Lorain County Metro Parks (LC), Cleveland Museum of Natural History (CM), and/or the Cleveland State University (CS).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 734 species were found in the six months of the study (Walters 1994 contains a complete list). Of the total, 687 were included in the 1,229 reported listed by Andreas (1989) as being present in the county. Therefore, 47 species had not been listed in the most recently published account for the county. These additions are itemized (Table 1) by species with relative abundance,

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TABLE 1
New records for Lorain County.

Species	Common Name	R. A. [†]	Habitat	Location ^{‡‡}	Date	Herbarium
* <i>Ajuga reptans</i> L.	Bugle-weed	R & L	In intermittent streambed of a tributary of the Black River	Ely	18 May	LC
<i>Alisma triviale</i> Pursh.	Northern Water-plantain	O	<i>Typha</i> marshes in the Black River valley	Elyria, She	2-10 Aug	
			<i>Typha-Carex</i> marsh near Plum Creek	Col	11 Aug	LC, CM
* <i>Ahus glutinosa</i> (L.) Gaertner	Black Alder	F	Disturbed wooded floodplains of Black River valley	Ely, She	May-Jun	LC, CM
* <i>Anthroxanthum odoratum</i> L.	Sweet Vernal Grass	C	Moderately dry to wet fields, pond and woodland edges	Bro, Car, Ely, NRI, Pit, She	Jul	LC, CM
<i>Aristolochia serpentaria</i> L.	Virginia Snakeroot	O	Deciduous woodland	Roc	25 Jul	LC, CM, CS
* <i>Betula pendula</i> Roth	European Birch	R	Around sandstone outcrop	Amh	3 Jun	LC, CM
<i>Betula populifolia</i> Marsh	Gray Birch	Two	Along a sandstone quarry	Amh	7 Aug	LC, CM
* <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> L.	Bitter-cress	F	Dry fields and open woods	Car, Bro, Ely	Apr-May	LC, CM
<i>Carex caroliniana</i> Schwein	Carolina Sedge	O	Wet meadow	Ely	15 Jun	LC, CM
<i>Carex glaucodea</i> Tuckerman	Blue-green Sedge	O	Open, dry field	She	23 Jun	LC, CM
* <i>Celastrus orbicularis</i> Thunb.	Oriental Bittersweet	O	Woodland edge in the Black River valley	She	7 Jul	LC, CM
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> L.	Redbud	F	Open woodland	Amh	3 Jun	LC, CM
* <i>Coreopsis grandiflora</i> Hogg.	Coreopsis	O	Dry, grassy areas along highway	She	27 Jun	LC, CS
* <i>Cymbalaria muralis</i> Gaertner, Meyer & Schreb.	Kenilworth Ivy	F	Wet sandstone block wall along Black River	Ely	20 May	LC, CM
* <i>Datura innoxia</i> Miller	Jimson-weed	O	Open agricultural field	Cam	6 Aug	LC
* <i>Dianthus barbatus</i> L.	Sweet William	R & L	Old field	Oberlin	26 Jun	LC, CM
* <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> L.	Hairy Willow-herb	F	Along rocky shore of Lake Erie	Lorain	9 Jul	LC, CM
* <i>Erophila verna</i> (L.) Besser	Early Whitlow Grass	F	Sandy area of tree lawn	Bro	26 Apr	LC
* <i>Euonymus alatus</i> (Thunb.) Sieb.	Winged Spindle-tree	F	Disturbed woodland	Bro	24 Aug	LC
		R	Disturbed slopes of Black River valley	Ely	14 May	LC
* <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> (Turcz.) Hand-Maz.	Wintercreeper	O	Woodland slopes of the Black River valley	She, Ely	Jun	LC
<i>Fraxinus profunda</i> (Bush) Bush	Pumpkin Ash	O	Open and wooded marshes	Car, Ely	Jun	LC, CM, CS
* <i>Galium mollugo</i> L.	Bedstraw	O	Along dry roadside	Hun	25 Jul	LC, CM
		F	Abandoned railroad bed	Car	4 Aug	LC
* <i>Hedera helix</i> L.	English Ivy	O	Wooded slopes of the Black River valley	She, Ely	Apr	LC
* <i>Hieracium florentinum</i> All.	Hawkweed	F	Open, dry field	Amh	3 Jun	LC, CM
* <i>Hosta ventricosa</i> (Salisb.) Stern	Plantain-leaved Hosta	R & L	Floodplain of Black River	Ely	21 Jul	LC, CM
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i> L.	Shrubby St. John's-wort	F	Old field	Car	26 Jul	LC, CM
* <i>Iris germanica</i> L.	German Iris	R & L	Along exposed, waste areas along ridgetop of Black River valley	She	7 Jun	LC, CM
* <i>Kickxia spuria</i> (L.) Dumort.	Cancerweed	O & L	Disturbed floodplain of Vermilion River	Bro	26 Aug	LC, CM, CS
* <i>Myosoton aquaticum</i> (L.) Moench	Giant Chickweed	F	Sandy, frequently flooded areas of the Black River floodplain	She	7 Jul	LC, CM
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i> Loisel	Northern Bayberry	R	Sandstone rock outcrop	Amh	3 Jun	LC, CM
* <i>Narcissus poeticus</i> L.	Poet's Narcissus	R & L	Frequently flooded, disturbed floodplain forest	Bro	26 Apr	LC
<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i> L.	Adder's-tongue Fern	F	Woodland	Roc	14 Jul	LC, CM, CS
<i>Paronychia fastigiata</i> (Raf.) Fern.	Forked Chickweed	R	Along dry, exposed, sandy ridgetop of Black River	She	23 Jun	LC, CM
<i>Physalis virginiana</i> L.	Virginia Ground Cherry	O	Open field	Ely	22 Jun	LC
			Old railroad embankment	NRu	4 Aug	LC, CM
<i>Plantago virginica</i> L.	Pale-seeded Plantain	F	Open, dry field	Amh	3 Jun	LC, CM, CS
* <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L.	Jointed Charlock	F	Old fields in the Black River valley	Ely	29 Jun	LC, CM
<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> (L.) Nash	Indian Grass	F	Prairie remnant in Black River valley	She	24 Aug	LC, CM
* <i>Symphytum officinale</i> L.	Common Comfrey	O	Roadside ditch	Lorain	9 Jul	LC, CM
* <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> L.	Arbor-vitae	Two	Young shrubs on exposed slope of Black River valley	She	1 Jun	LC
* <i>Torilis japonica</i> (Houtt.) DC.	Hedge Parsley	F	Along wooded, abandoned railway bed	Cam	4 Aug	LC, CM
* <i>Tragopogon dubius</i> Scop.	Goat's-beard	O	Open field	Bro	6 Jun	LC
			Dry, sandstone outcrop	Amh	3 Jun	LC, CM
<i>Triosteum aurantiacum</i> Bickn.	Wild Coffee	R & L	Along wooded slope	Bro	30 Jun	LC
			Infrequent in woodland	She	12 Jul	LC
* <i>Vicia dasycarpa</i> Ten.	Hairy-pod Vetch	R	Along wet field edge	Hun	21 Jul	LC, CM
* <i>Vicia tetrasperma</i> (L.) Schreber	Vetch	F	Old field	Oberlin	26 Jun	LC
		C	Old field	Ely	22 Jun	LC, CM
<i>Zanmichellia palustris</i> L.	Horned Pondweed	O	Large lake	Pit	25 Jul	LC, CM
* <i>Zea mays</i> L.	Indian Corn	R & L	Frequently flooded, disturbed floodplain forest	Bro	2 Sep	LC

[†]Relative abundance: Rare (R), Local (L), Occasional (O), Frequent (F) and Common (C) as defined by Voss (1972).

^{‡‡}Municipality or abbreviated township; township abbreviations listed below:

Amh—Amherst	Car—Carlisle	Gra—Grafton	NRu—New Russia
Bro—Brownhelm	Col—Columbia	Hun—Huntington	Pit—Pittsfield
Cam—Camden	Ely—Elyria	NRI—North Ridgeville	She—Sheffield

*Non-native species

habitat, township or city, date(s) collected and disposition of voucher specimen(s). Nomenclature follows Gleason and Cronquist (1991).

These additions to the flora are important for several reasons. Further documentation in this county is indicated due to the large number of new records found in a short time period. Most of the new county records are alien species expanding their range from neighboring counties. Other species, i. e., *Fraxinus profunda*, appear similar to common species and were likely overlooked. Lastly, some species, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* and *Aristolochia serpentaria*, were found in areas rarely explored. These additions to the work of Andreas (1989) would bring the total to 1,246 species. Further exploration of this county would undoubtedly provide more discoveries.

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