

The Ohio Journal of

SCIENCE

AN INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Volume 109

June 2009

Number 3



THE OHIO JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

ISSN 0030-0950

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FUTURE ACADEMY MEETINGS

2011 April 15-16 at Otterbein University,
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TYPESETTING, PAGE LAYOUT, AND EDITORIAL
PROOFREADING—DEBRA MCLEAN

Date of Issue—September 2010
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The Ohio Journal of Science (ISSN 0030-0950) is published in March, April, June, September, and December by The Ohio Academy of Science, 1500 W Third Avenue Suite 228, Columbus OH 43212-2817. Individual membership and subscription: \$75. Domestic institutional subscription: \$75; Foreign institutional subscription: \$90. Single issues for Academy members: \$10; others \$15.
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POSTMASTER:

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The Ohio Journal of Science
1500 W. Third Ave., Ste. 228
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COVERPHOTO: Forest habitats in southwestern Ohio have been degraded by the exotic honeysuckle species, *Lonicera maackii*, a woody shrub native to Central and Northeastern China, Korea and Japan. The first North American discovery dates to the late 1890's when specimens were brought to Ontario, Canada and New York and used for ornamental purposes and to reduce soil erosion on steep slopes. In 1961 E. Lucy Brown of the University of Cincinnati first documented the escape of the species in Hamilton County, Ohio. Currently *L. maackii* exists in at least 24 states on the East coast and Midwest as well as Ontario. In much of Hamilton County, the site of the present study by Brent Blair and Annette Stowasser, reported on pages 43-47, *L. maackii* dominates the forest understory, forming dense thickets in many areas. Studies show that *L. maackii* negatively affects diversity and abundance of native herbaceous annual plants, native tree seedling germination and survival, spider diversity and herpetological diversity, and may negatively affect bird species by causing increased predation of nesting birds by large mammals. Purchased photo is representative and not for scientific identification.