

VIOLA HIRSUTULA IN OHIO.

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Every spring for several years past the writer has observed a blue violet in the vicinity of Sugar Grove to which he was unable to assign a name. But the plant was so common and so clearly distinct from all of the other violets of the region that he supposed that his trouble arose from the difficulty of the genus rather than from any rarity of the plant itself. Finally in 1910 particular care was taken to collect perfect specimens both at flowering time and in early summer and from a study of these it was evident that the plant was *Viola hirsutula* Brainerd, better known as *Viola villosa* Walt., but not, according to Brainerd, Walter's plant. This determination has since been verified at the Gray Herbarium. The mature plants are entirely similar to those in the herbarium but those in flower vary somewhat from the usual form in a tendency toward lobing at the base of the leaf which while occasionally seen in the herbarium specimens is sufficiently pronounced in almost all of the Sugar Grove plants to make it difficult to decide which section of the key to follow in their determination. This tendency is confined to the youngest leaves and in mature plants the leaves are all cordate. In addition to the characters given in the manual there is a very distinctive field character which should be included in the descriptions. This is the purple veining of the upper surfaces of the leaves which together with their mottling of different shades of green renders the plants very beautiful for their foliage alone. In the herbarium specimens this color fades and becomes indistinct but in many cases it is still visible and when present is useful for diagnostic purposes.

The hitherto known range of *Viola hirsutula* is: Southern New York and New Jersey to Florida and Louisiana, both in the mountains and on the coastal plain. The present station is about two hundred miles west of the most westerly locality previously reported, namely in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, where it is reported by Shafer. At Sugar Grove it is exceedingly abundant on the uplands where it occupies much the same place in the plant associations that the common blue violet fills on the bottomlands. It is especially a plant of old fields and pine barrens though it is also to be found along with many other of the upland plants in pastures where the land is more fertile. From the abundance of the species in this region and the widespread occurrence of similar habitats over all of Southeastern Ohio, the writer is led to believe that when once it is recognized by the botanists it will be found growing almost throughout this region.