

Narrow-leaved Bitter-cress

Cardamine impatiens

Habit: Herbaceous annual or biennial; grows up to 2 feet in height.

Leaves: Pinnately divided with numerous (6-20), sharply toothed leaflets, with membranelike, narrow, pointed auricles at the leaf base (see circled structure in photo); basal leaves are arranged in a rosette and pinnately divided; 3-11 leaflets with rounded lobes.

Stems: Erect, glabrous

Flowers: Small, white, up to 2.5 mm (0.1 in.) long; petals lacking or shorter than the sepals, bloom May to August.

Fruits/Seeds: Slender seedpods (siliques) on spreading-ascending to erect pedicels, 1.5-2 cm (0.6-0.8 in.) long; 10-24 seeds; ripen from May to September.

Habitat: Established in Michigan; found on banks, along thicket margins, shady woods and on moist limestone rocks and cliffs.

Reproduction: Seeds project out of siliques.

Similar Species: Native - Sand bitter-cress (*C. parviflora*) and Pennsylvania bitter-cress (*C. pennsylvanica*) - the most important distinguishing characteristic of *C. impatiens* is the narrow, pointed auricles at the base of the leaves.

Comments: Easily dispersed due to its seed shooting ability; can form dense stands outcompeting native species.

Monitoring & Rapid Response: Monitor moist forested sites in spring and summer; can be identified by its sagittate-auriculate leaf bases. Hand pull and remove all plants before seed dispersal.

As this species has a limited distribution in Michigan, it is important to document new occurrences. Please obtain flowering or fruiting specimens with the diagnostic leaf bases and submit to:

Anton Reznicek, Curator (Vascular Plants), University of Michigan Herbarium, 3600 Varsity Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-2287.

Current Known Distribution:



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