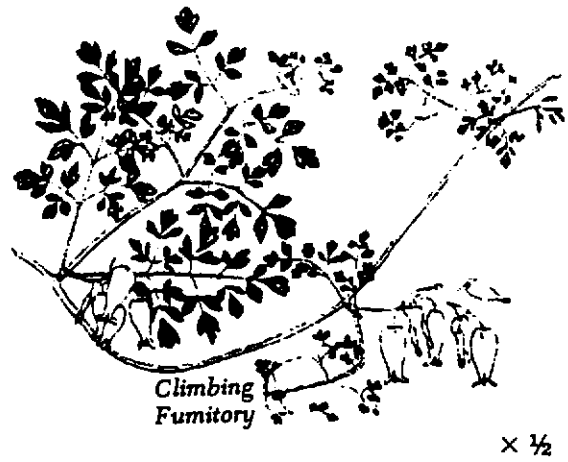
Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135
Westborough, MA 01581-3337

MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

CLIMBING FUMITORY
(Adlumia fungosa (Ait.) Greene)

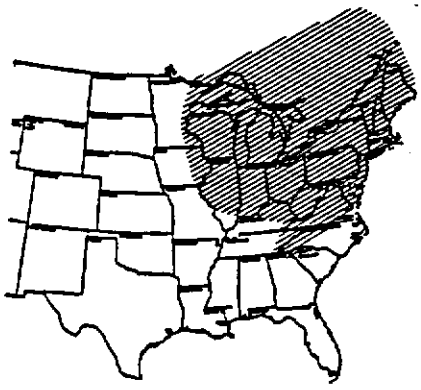
DESCRIPTION



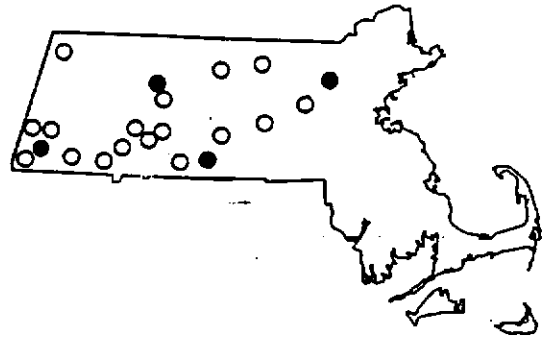
Newcomb, Lawrence. Newcomb's Wildflower Guide. Little, Brown and Company, Boston 1977.

Climbing Fumitory is an herbaceous biennial vine that can reach lengths of 10 feet (3 m). In its first year this plant consists of a rosette of several spreading or upright, non-climbing leaves without a central stem. In its second year, it develops a slender, elongate stem and large delicate leaves. Lacking tendrils, it clambers over rocks and climbs vegetation using its stem and leaves. The leaves are 3-times-pinnate and the leaflets are mostly 3-lobed. The uppermost leaflets are much smaller than the rest of the leaves. Climbing Fumitory flowers from mid-June to early August. The flowers are white or pinkish, 1/2 inch long and droop in loose clusters from the axils. The 4 petals are joined to form a bell-shaped flower similar to those of Squirrel Corn (Dicentra canadense). This plant is unlike any other in Massachusetts.

(continued overleaf)



Distribution of Adlumia fungosa



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Climbing Fumitory inhabits moist ledges and rocky woods. It is usually found in the shade climbing over talus at the base of cliffs. It grows in association with Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Basswood (*Tilia americana*), Black Birch (*Betula lenta*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantium pedatum*), Maidenhair Spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), Bottlebrush Grass (*Hystrix patula*), Round-leaved Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*) and Wild Columbine (*Aqiulegia canadense*).

RANGE

The range of Climbing Fumitory is from Quebec to Minnesota south to Delaware, Ohio and Indiana. The range extends further south in the Appalachian Mountains to North Carolina and Tennessee.

POPULATION STATUS IN MASSACHUSETTS

Climbing Fumitory is considered a "Threatened" species in the Commonwealth. It is currently (since 1978) known to occur at 5 sites. An additional 17 towns have historical records (before 1978) for Climbing Fumitory, but as many of these records do not have specific locational information, they are very difficult to revisit to determine the presence or absence of this species. This species is threatened by excessive shading by maturing forest, particularly Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*).