

CISTACEAE – ROCKROSE FAMILY

Plant: herbs and shrubs

Stem:

Root:

Leaves: usually small, simple, entire, alternate or opposite (sometimes both), or sometimes whorled; no stipules

Flowers: perfect, regular (actinomorphic); sepals mostly 5, outer 2 narrower (sometimes lacking) and shorter than the inner 3; petals 5, sometimes 3 or rarely none, usually distinct, sometimes falling early, or petals lacking completely; stamens separate and often numerous, tending to be irregular in number; ovary superior, 1 pistil, 3-5 carpels (fused); 1 style

Fruit: capsule, often woody to leathery, 3 or more chambers; often enclosed by persistent calyx

Other: mostly tropical family, some cultivated; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 9+ genera; locally *Helianthemum* (frostweed), *Hudsonia* (false heather), *Lechea* (pinweed)

Flower Morphology in the Cistaceae (Rockrose Family)

Examples of common genera



Plains Frostweed [Several-Flowered Rockrose]
Helianthemum bicknellii Fernald



Hairy Pinweed
Lechea mucronata Raf. (*L. villosa*)

CISTACEAE – ROCKROSE FAMILY

**Plains Frostweed [Several-Flowered Rockrose]; *Helianthemum bicknellii* Fernald
[Longbranch] Frostweed [Solitary-Flowered Rockrose; Rockrose]; *Helianthemum canadense* L. Michx.
Hairy Pinweed; *Lechea mucronata* Raf. (*L. villosa*)**

Plains Frostweed [Several-Flowered Rockrose]



Helianthemum bicknellii Fernald

Cistaceae (Rockrose Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled flower, yellow, 2-10 flowers per plant; no long hairs on calyx, only short hairs; stem downy; summer; ID tentative

[V Max Brown, 2006]



[Longbranch] Frostweed
[Solitary-Flowered
Rockrose; Rockrose]



Helianthemum canadense L. Michx.

Cistaceae (Rockrose Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 1 or 2 large 5-petaled flower, yellow,
wedge-shaped petals, calyx with long hairs;
leaves oblong to lanceolate; plant hairy; late
spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Hairy Pinweed

Lechea mucronata Raf. (*L. villosa*)

Cistaceae (Rockrose Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas

County, Ohio

Notes: 3-petaled flower, small, reddish, mostly hidden by sepals, 5 sepals (not densely hairy) - 2 narrow outer and 3 larger inner sepals; leaves alternate, elliptical to ovate, entire, hairy especially along margins; stem hairy; a fairly tall and bushy plant; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2008]

