Rare Species Explorer

Morus rubra
Red mulberry

Photo by Michael R. Penskar

Key Characteristics

Medium-sized tree of forested floodplains; most leaves broadly ovate, heart-shaped at base (superficially similar to basswood, Tilia americana, but not offset at the base), roughly pubescent on the surface; some leaves may be irregularly lobed.

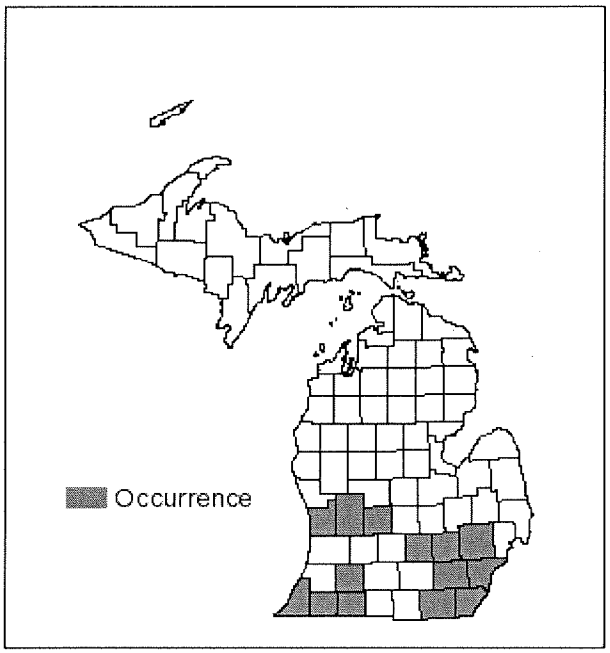
Status and Rank

State Status: T - Threatened (legally protected)
State Rank: S2 - Imperiled
Global Rank: G5 - Secure

Occurrences

County Name	Number of Occurrences	Year Last Observed
Berrien	4	2006
Cass	2	2009
Ingham	1	1969
Ionia	1	2003
Kalamazoo	2	2008
Kent	4	2002
Lenawee	1	1984
Livingston	2	2003
Monroe	2	1949
Oakland	2	2010

Ottawa	1	1896
St. Joseph	1	1981
Washtenaw	3	2003
Wayne	5	2006



Updated 6/1/2011. Information is summarized from MNFI's database of rare species and community occurrences. Data may not reflect true distribution since much of the state has not been thoroughly surveyed.

Habitat

Red mulberry is restricted to river floodplains in southern Lower Michigan.

Natural Community Types

Floodplain forest

Associated Plants

Silver maple, green ash, red maple, black walnut, hackberry, black maple, Ohio buckeye, box elder, black ash, black willow, cottonwood, swamp white oak, sycamore, spice bush, redbud, paw paw, Kentucky coffee tree, red mulberry, wahoo, Virginia blue-bells, common trillium, red trillium, stinging nettle, poison ivy, moneywort, Canada moonseed, wild ginger, skunk cabbage, honewort, kidney-leaved buttercup, false mermaid, rough bedstraw, mayapple, blue-eyed Mary, and Canada goldenrod.

Management

Conserve hydrology of river system and corresponding cyclical floodplain regime. Maintain healthy intact, mature floodplain forests and minimize forest fragmentation. When possible, leave large tracts of unharvested forests and allow natural processes to operate unhindered.

General Survey Guidelines

Random meander search covers areas that appear likely to have rare taxa, based on habitat and the judgment of the investigator.

Survey Methods

Meander search

Survey Period: From fourth week of May to fourth week of September

Survey Comments: Found within or in close proximity to riparian areas

Page Citation

Michigan Natural Features Inventory. 2007. Rare Species Explorer (Web Application). Available online at http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/explorer [Accessed Jul 28, 2011]

More Information

See MNFI Species Abstract

References

Survey References

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