

A STATE RECORD FOR CHIMAPHILA  
MACULATA (L.) PURSH. IN ILLINOIS

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In the spring of 1974, a new species of vascular plant was recorded for Illinois. One individual of spotted wintergreen (Chimaphila maculata (L.) Pursh.) was found in the Lusk Creek watershed (Pope County) on a moderately dry, south-facing, site. The sterile individual was 11 cm. tall with a reddish or reddish-green semi-woody stem. The opposite lanceolate leaves had 12 to 15 sharp teeth and were white variegated along the veins. Mature leaves were 5.5 cm. long, 2.4 cm. wide at the broadest width, and were the broadest at 23% of the length from the base; petioles were 4 mm. long. A specimen of a leaf has been placed in the SIU herbarium.

The geographic distribution of C. maculata is restricted to the east, from southern New Hampshire to Ontario and Michigan southward to South Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. The Pope County specimen represents a 120 mile westward extension from the range of the species in Kentucky. Another 99 mile westward disjunction is represented by a specimen recorded in Carroll County, Tennessee. The Pope County record is approximately 110 miles north of the Carroll County record.

Evidence appears to indicate recent establishment of the Pope County specimen. The stem of a mature individual of C. maculata is usually 10 to 25 cm. tall; in April our specimen was on 7.5 cm. tall and by July was 11 cm. tall. The individual did not flower which is an additional indication of its immaturity. Only one individual was found in April; however, in July a new individual was found which had apparently developed from the root system of the older plant. The Pope county individuals are in a habitat which is within the ecological amplitude of the species; therefore, reproduction and establishment of individuals would be expected in the area.

The individual of C. maculata was found in a woods dominated by white oak (Quercus alba), black oak (Q. velutina), scarlet oak (Q. coccinea) and hickory (Carya spp.). Common understory species included false dandelion (Krigia biflora), dittany (Onilla origanoides), solomon's seal (Polygonatum biflorum), false foxglove (Gerardia flava), and wild licorice (Galium circaezans). Within its range, spotted wintergreen is found in upland conifer and hardwood forests.