Aegopodium podagraria
(Goutweed
Bishop’s weed)

**COMMON NAME**
Goutweed
Bishop’s weed

**FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME**
*Aegopodium podagraria* L.

**FAMILY NAME COMMON**
Carrot family

**FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Apiaceae

**IMAGES**
- Inflorescence/fruit of varigated form
- Leaf close-up of varigated form
- Incursion
NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: None

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

*Aegopodium podagraria* is a creeping, herbaceous perennial that can grow to be 40 cm-1 m (15.7-39.4 in.) tall. The basal and lower leaves have long petioles. There are usually 9 leaflets per lower leaf, although this can vary. Each leaflet is ovate with an acute or acuminate apex. The bases of these leaflets can be rounded or cordate. The lower leaflets are 3-8 cm (1-3 in.) long and have a serrate margin. The upper leaflets are similar to the lower leaflets, but are smaller and ternate in their arrangement, and have shorter petioles. The horticultural variety usually grown (*Aegopodium podagraria* var. *variegatum*) has white margins on its leaves.

The white flowers are arranged in umbels that are 6-12 cm (2.25-4.75 in.) in diameter. Each umbel is borne on a long peduncle, and has 15-25 rays that are about 2.5 cm (1 in.) or more in length. The flowers of *Aegopodium podagraria* appear in June. The brown fruits oblong-ovoid, laterally flattened and 3-4 mm (0.12-0.16 in.) long.


SIMILAR SPECIES

*Zizia aurea* (L.) Koch. (Common golden alexander) Picture of *Z. aurea*
*Cryptotaenia canadensis* (L.) DC. (Canadian honewort) Picture of *C. canadensis*
*Osmorhiza longistylis* (Torr.) DC. (Aniseroott) Picture of *O. longistylis*

REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

*Aegopodium podagraria* reproduces vegetatively via stolons, and can spread aggressively when its root zone is unrestricted. New plants easily grow from stolons that become detached. Most seeds fall to the ground, and account for only a small portion of this
plant's spread. Some seeds may also be passively dispersed by moving water or by animals.

DISTRIBUTION

*Aegopodium podagraria* is native to Europe. In the U.S. it is found throughout the East and Midwest, and also the northwestern states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming. It is found in all the states of New England.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

*Aegopodium podagraria* was probably brought to New England as an ornamental foliage plant, but then easily escaped to naturalize along roadsides, waste places and cultivated ground. W.W. Bailey reported its presence in Providence, Rhode Island in 1863 (J. of the Torrey Botanical Society 1876, Vol.3: 176). It was noted in the early 1870's in both New York and New Jersey. It was listed as present in the Bangor, Maine region by 1906 (Rhodora, 1906, Vol. 8: 72).

HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

- Agricultural Field
- Edge
- Open Disturbed Area
- Pasture
- Roadside
- Vacant Lot
- Yard or Garden

*Aegopodium podagraria* does well in partial sun to full shade, with a preference for well-drained, evenly moist soils. It is tolerant of poor soils and can grow in a wide range of soil pH values.

THREATS

Digging up this plant can often be counterproductive as fragmentation of the root system stimulates reproduction via the stolons. The non-variagated form is particularly aggressive.

MANAGEMENT LINKS

- Plant Conservation Alliance fact sheet
  Includes management information.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: A specific photograph or mounted snippet
of the leaves.
**Best time for documentation:** Summer, fall.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- **Plant Conservation Alliance**
  Fact sheet with description and control information

- **Integrated Taxonomic Information System**
  Taxonomic information about the species

- **The PLANTS database**
  General information and map

- **University of Minnesota Extension Service**
  An image and brief description

- **Ohio State University**
  Description of the plant in a horticultural setting

- **The Nature Conservancy**
  Photographs

**REFERENCES**


**DATA RETRIEVAL**

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit".
Selection.

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

Submit Selection

MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

Submit Selection