Maryland Golden-aster
Chrysopsis mariana

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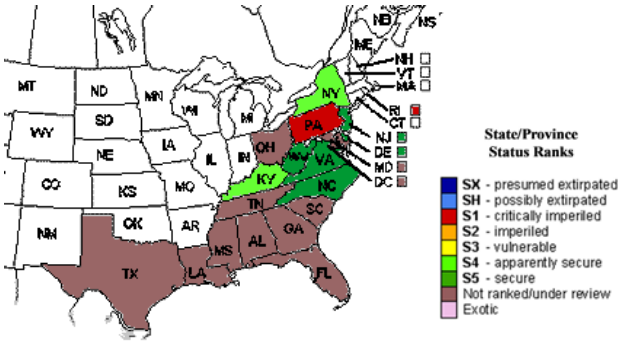
Description
Maryland golden-aster is a perennial herb that that grows from 1 to 2½ feet (3-8 dm) tall. The stem is hairy when young but becomes more-or-less hairless later. The leaves are lance-shaped to elliptic, hairy at least when young, and tend to decrease in size up the stem. The yellow flowers, appearing from July to October, occur in flowering heads that are about 1inch (2.5 cm) wide. The base of each flower-head is surrounded by sticky green bracts.

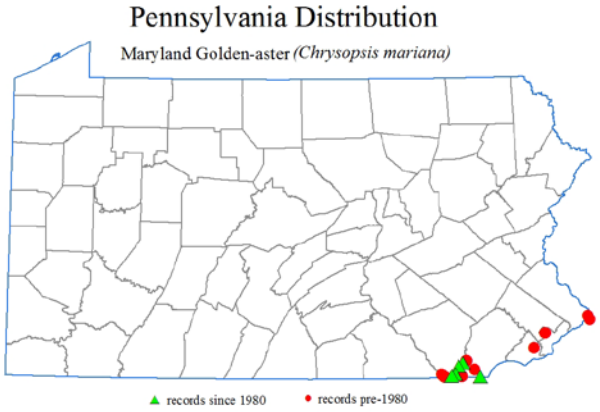
Photo source: R. Harrison Wiegand

Distribution & Habitat
Maryland golden-aster has a range from New York west and south into Texas and Florida. In Pennsylvania, it is near a northern border of its range, and has been documented historically in a few southeastern counties. It grows in woodland borders, successional openings, open woods, and serpentine barrens.

North American State/Province Conservation Status
Map by NatureServe 2014



Current State Status
The PA Biological Survey (PABS) considers Maryland golden-aster to be a species of special concern, based on the few occurrences that have been recently confirmed. It has a PA legal rarity status of Threatened and has been assigned a suggested rarity status of Endangered by PABS. About 10 populations are currently known in the state.



Conservation Considerations
Existing populations of Maryland golden-aster are threatened by natural succession, invasive species, and the indiscriminate application of herbicide. Given the preference of the species for relatively open habitats, active management – such as fire, mowing, or invasive species removal – is often required to maintain the proper successional stage at sites where it grows.

NatureServe conservation status ranks
G5 – Globally secure; **S1** – Critically imperiled in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program

References

- NatureServe. 2014. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available http://www.natureserve.org/explorer.
- Rhoads, A.F. and T.A. Block. 2007. The Plants of Pennsylvania: An Illustrated Manual. 2nd edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia.