Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

This publication was produced in 2000 as a joint project of:
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry and the Bureau of Endangered Resources,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
The Nature Conservancy,
International Paper,
Stora Enso and
Plum Creek.
For more information, contact
Eunice.Padley@dnr.state.wi.us
and reference publication number FR-174

WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Squashberry

(Viburnum edule)

Federal Status: Not Listed
State Status: Endangered

Description: This 3-foot-tall shrub grows in sprawling clumps on a thin layer of fallen leaves and organic debris. The shrub's paired, lobed leaves, except for those at the tips of branches, resemble maple leaves. The leaves at the tips of the branches are not lobed. Bouquets of white, star-shaped fragrant flowers bloom in early May. These are followed by juicy, red, edible fruits.

Habitat: Squashberry requires the cool, moist conditions of shaded rocky sites, including quartzite talus slopes. It may be found growing

in the cracks of stony cliffs. The humus-rich soil that sometimes accumulates in such situations is chilled by cool air drifting downslope between the rocks.

Forestry Considerations: Mature deciduous trees help to maintain the cool, moist conditions that squashberry requires. Single-tree selection silviculture is preferred. This technique maintains a closed canopy, preventing drying and warming of the soil.