

CROSS-LEAVED MILKWORT  
*Polygala cruciata*

Located in sandy swamps, wet meadows, wet pinelands and peats throughout the Division. Also known as Drumheads, or Marsh Milkwort. The variety *aquilonia* is common to the northern area and is seldom found far from the coast. It is described below.

An erect, unbranched or few-branched annual; stems square or slightly wing-angled in cross-section, stouter than *P. brevifolia* the main stem with 3 to 5 leaf-bearing nodes; 15 to 25 cm high. The leaves are narrowly spatula-shaped to lance-shaped, narrowing to the stem not the tip; firm, toothless, mainly in whorls of 3 or 4; 1.2 to 4 cm long. The flower-spikes are stalkless or on very short stalks, densely clustered with small, purplish to greenish or white, irregular shaped flowers; the two side petals are about as wide as long, triangular; blooming from July to October.



