



ASTER FAMILY.

ASTERACEAE

Stiff-leaved Aster Pine Aster.

Ionactis linariifolia.

Found chiefly on the edges of pine woods in September.

The stalk reaches from 1 to 2 feet in height; it is single, leafy, slender, and rough to the touch. In color, pale green, tinged with red.

The leaf is long, and narrow, with an entire margin; the surface covered with a minute down that is harsh to the touch; the fibre is stiff. The color is green. The leaves are set upon the stalk, irregularly, alternating, and numerous.

The disc flowers are yellow; the ray flowers, 12 to 20 in number, are long and slender, and pale bluish-lavender in color. The heads are few, and grow, on slender stems, either singly, or in a terminal flat-topped cluster.

The stiff edges of the leaves and their rigid bearing are not unlike the needles which carpet the favorite haunts this Aster loves. Though not pleasant to pluck, on account of its harsh texture, this is a very attractive plant to look upon.

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STIFF-LEAVED ASTER: *Ionactis linariifolia*.

Text and drawing excerpted from *Wildflowers from the North-Eastern States* by Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting, 1895
Nomenclature and Families updated.