

***Carex gigantea* Rudge**
Large Sedge



Family: Cyperaceae

Synonyms: N/A

Description: Long-creeping rhizomes; vegetative culms (pseudoculms) poorly developed or absent; fruiting culms 1 to few per tuft, 40 to 120 cm long; leaf blades 20-60 cm long and 5-15 mm wide, dull green; staminate spike 20-80 cm long, long or short stalked; pistillate spikes 2-5, 30-80 cm long; pistillate scales 4.5-10.5 mm long, lanceolate to narrowly ovate, tapered to a pointed or short-awned tip; perigynia 11-18 mm long, mostly spreading, green to yellowish green, shiny, glabrous; achene with body 2.2-2.6 mm long, wider than long, unevenly diamond-shaped to nearly obtriangular in outline, widest above the middle, the angles thickened toward the middle, the sides strongly concave.

Flowering: May to early July

Fruiting: June to September

Similar Species: Similar to other bladder sedges, i.e. *Carex lupulina*, *C. louisianica*, and *C. lurida*. The wide bodied, uneven diamond-shaped achenes are diagnostic.

Total Range: AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MO, MS, NC, OH, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA

Ohio Range: Gallia County

Ohio Status: <http://naturepreserves.ohiodnr.gov/>

Habitats: River birch-silver maple-sweet gum swamp forest

Threats: Invasive species and habitat loss.

Conservation Potential: The only known site is protected.

Inventory guidelines: Collect mature fruiting material with rhizome.

Comments: This species was discovered in 2009 in a high quality river birch-silver maple-sweet gum swamp forest. The site is flooded during spring. It grows among other bladder sedges.

Ohio is at the edge of the species range. Likely, this species was never frequent in Ohio.

To date, botanists have failed to find additional populations in similar swamp forests in south central Ohio. This species should be searched for in Gallia, Jackson, and Lawrence counties.

Selected References:

Gardner, R.L. 2009. Biological inventory of special interest areas of the Wayne National Forest, Ironton District. Report submitted to the USDA Forest Service, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Columbus, Ohio, 112 p.

Vincent, M.A., R.L. Gardner, and B.P. Riley. 2011. Additions to and interesting records for the Ohio vascular flora (with one new record for Indiana). *Phytoneuron* 60: 1-23.

Yatskievych, G. 1999. Steyermark's Flora of Missouri, Volume 1, revised edition. Missouri Department of Conservation, Jefferson City, MO, 991 p.



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