

CAREX ALBOLUTESCENS Schwein.
Pale Straw Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

SYNONYM: *Carex straminea* of Mackenzie, not Willd. (see Comments).

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, black, fibrillose rootstalk, fertile culms 2.5-9 dm.; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is similar to *Carex longii*, *Carex alata*, and *Carex straminea*. It differs from *Carex alata* and *Carex straminea* by its pistillate scales being acuminate not awn-tipped. *Carex albolutescens* differs from *C. longii* by its perigynia tips spreading, not appressed and pistillate scales acuminate not blunt. *Carex bicknellii* and *Carex merritt-fernaldii* are also similar, but perigynia of these species are very thin and translucent.

TOTAL RANGE: MA to GA, w. to s. MI, s. IL, s. MO, LA, and TX.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 records from Adams, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Jackson, Lawrence, Lorain, Lucas, and Trumbull counties. There are pre-1980 records from Lake and Summit counties.

HABITAT: A variety of wet, open situations, often in sandy soil; fields, borders, ditches, clearings, fens, prairies, bogs.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good; it is known to occur in disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: The members of this group of sedges are notoriously difficult to identify. This species easily may be overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout the state. Given its wide distribution and generalized habitat, it is difficult to understand why this species seems to be so rare in Ohio. The name *C. straminea* has been misapplied to several sedges. The illustration in Mackenzie (1940) that is labeled *C. straminea* is actually *C. albolutescens*. This situation was clarified by Svenson (1938).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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