

CAREX ATHERODES Spreng.
Wheat Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Loosely tufted perennial from an elongate, slender, scaly rootstalk, fertile culms mostly solitary, 3-15 dm.; fruiting late May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar in general appearance to other members of the section Paludosae, especially *Carex hyalinolepis*, *C. lacustris* and *C. trichocarpa*. *C. atherodes* can be distinguished from these by the pubescent of its leaves and leaf sheaths and its longer perigynia teeth that are glabrous. The long perigynia teeth of *C. trichocarpa* are densely pubescent. Occasional plants of *C. atherodes*, though, have only a few scattered hairs in these areas and only can be distinguished by the perigynia.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, extending s. in America to NY, WV, MO, CO, UT, and OR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Crawford, Erie, Logan, Lucas, Marion, Ottawa, Summit, Wood, and Wyandot counties. Pre-1980 records are from Darke, Henry and Pickaway counties. The Fairfield County record mapped in Braun (1967) was based on a misidentification.

HABITAT: A variety of wet, open situations, usually in calcareous or neutral substrates; marshes, shores, streambanks, swales. The species has been located in several wet prairie remnants in the Sandusky Plains area and the Oak Openings.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good due to its rhizomatous habit.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species had long been overlooked and/or misidentified. It often remains vegetative in less than optimal habitats. However, the species is fairly easy to identify when vegetative due to its pubescent leaves and sheaths. It should be sought throughout glaciated Ohio. .

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae [of Ohio]: Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus OH. 464 pp.

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