

CAREX ATLANTICA subsp. CAPILLACEA (Bailey) Reznicek  
Howe's Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

SYNONYMS: *Carex howei* Mackenzie; *Carex interior* Bailey var. *capillacea* Bailey

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, upright rootstalk, fertile culms 10-60 cm.; fruiting late May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to other members of the section *Stellulatae*, from which it differs only by technical characters of perigynia and leaves. Close examination and careful measurements are required to correctly determine these species. Also similar to sedges of the section *Bracteosae*, but differing from them in the strongly thickened, spongy base of its perigynia.

TOTAL RANGE: Mainly on the coastal plain, but also occasionally inland to OH, s. Ontario, s. MI, and n. IN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Geauga, Licking, Lorain, Portage, Stark and Summit counties. Pre-1980 records are from Jackson, Lake, Perry, and Wayne.

HABITAT: A variety of open, moist situations in acidic substrates; sphagnum bogs, shrub borders, clearings in wet woods, thickets; not in calcareous situations.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good as it is known from disturbed sites.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This sedge is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout the state. It well may be more frequent than the records indicate.

*Carex atlantica* is extremely variable throughout its range. These variations have been the bases for numerous taxonomic entities. Some populations of these sedges in Jackson County exhibit nearly complete intergradation between *C. atlantica* subsp. *atlantica* and subsp. *capillacea* and cannot be assigned with certainty to either taxon.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A., and A. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 910 pp.

Mackenzie, K.K. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 106.

Reznicek, A. & P. Ball. 1980. The taxonomy of *Carex* section *Stellulatae* in North America north of Mexico. *Contrib. Univ. Mich. Herb.* 14: 153-203.



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