

CAREX BEBBII (Bailey) Fern.
Bebb's Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Carex bebbii* Olney

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, black, fibrillose rootstalk, fertile culms 2-8 dm.; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The similar *Carex cristatella* differs from *C. bebbii* by its perigynia not winged to the base and the beaks of the perigynia strongly spreading at maturity. Another similar species *C. tribuloides*, differs by its perigynia being 4-5 mm long compared to <4 mm of *C. bebbii*, and its leaves are wider (3-7 mm compared to 2-4 mm).

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to British Columbia, s. to NJ, IL, NE, and CO.

STATE RANGE: Post-1980 records are from Cuyahoga, Erie, Fulton, Holmes, Logan, Lucas, Ottawa, Portage, Richland, Seneca, Stark, Summit, and Williams counties. There are pre-1980 records from Lorain and Montgomery counties.

HABITAT: A variety of moist situations in sun or semi-shade, often in sandy soil; woods borders and clearings, lake margins, bogs, fens, prairies, thickets.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good as it is known from disturbed situations in other states.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species is one of a series of sedges, the section Ouales, the members of which are extremely difficult to identify accurately. Species are distinguished largely by careful measurements and critical examination of the perigynia and pistillate scales. This species easily may be overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio. Voss (1966) briefly discusses the confusion over the authorship of *C. bebbii* (see Synonym).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 p.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 3/1981 Allison W. Cusick
Revised: 1/2001 Richard Gardner