

CAREX BICKNELLII Britton  
Bicknell's Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, black, fibrillose rootstalk, fertile culms 3-12 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 not prolonged into awn-tips, perigynia are very thin, translucent and leaf sheafs having a prominent hyaline stripe on ventral surface. *Carex merritt-fernaldii* is very similar to *C. bicknelli* but its perigynia are nerveless or faintly nerved on ventral surface.

TOTAL RANGE: ME to Manitoba, s. to DE, OH, MO, OK, and NM.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Crawford, Erie, Lucas, and Madison counties. There are pre-1980 records from Wood County.

HABITAT: Dry to moist open situations, often in sandy soil; prairies, sandy knolls, sand dunes.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; compaction of loose soil.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

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 western Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Gleason, H.A. and Cronquist, A. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY. 910 pp.

Mackenzie, K.K. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 174.

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: 12/1983 Allison W. Cusick  
Revised: 1/2001 Richard L. Gardner