

CAREX CEPHALOIDEA Dewey
Thin-leaved Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYM: *Carex sparganioides* Muhl. var. *cephaloidea* (Dewey) Carey

HABIT: Loosely tufted perennial from a short, stout, fibrillose rootstalk, fertile culms 3-5 dm.; fruiting May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It is very similar to *Carex aggregata* and *C. sparganioides* and very difficult to separate from these two species except by close examination of the pistillate scales, leaf sheaths, and other technical characters. Immature material is virtually impossible to determine accurately. However, the culms of *C. cephaloidea* usually are more roughened than those of other related sedges and the pistillate scales are scarcely half as long as the body of the perigynia.

TOTAL RANGE: New Brunswick to MI and MN, s. to NJ, OH, and IL.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Erie, Lucas, Medina, Ottawa, Portage, Richland, Summit, and Wayne counties. There are pre-1980 records from Auglaize, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Highland, Lorain, and Trumbull.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: This sedge is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio. Probably it is more frequent than the records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Mackenzie, K.K. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 51.

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



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