

CAREX CRUS-CORVI Shuttlw. ex Kunze
Raven-foot Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, stout, black rootstalk, fertile culms very thick, 5-9 dm.; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially this species resembles the common *Carex laevivaginata* and *C. stipata*, both of which grow in similar habitats as well. However, *C. crus-corvi* is the only Ohio species with the following combination of characters: multi-branched inflorescence; leaf sheaths purple-dotted; perigynia very large with prominent long beaks and a swollen, disc-like base.

TOTAL RANGE: Throughout the Gulf States and n. into the interior to IN, s. Ontario, s. MI, and s. MN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Auglaize, Hardin, Know, Mercer, Paulding, Pickaway, and Van Wert counties. Pre-1980 records are from Wood County.

HABITAT: Swampy woods, wooded floodplains, various shaded alluvial situations, road ditches.

HAZARDS: Clearing of woods; stream channelization.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species is easily confused with the common *C. stipata* and *C. laevivaginata*. Some Ohio specimens appear to intergrade with these species. It may be easily overlooked or misidentified. It should be sought in appropriate habitats throughout western Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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