

CAREX ECHINATA Murray ssp. ECHINATA
Little Prickly Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYM: *Carex cephalantha* (Bailey) Bickn.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial, flowering culms 10-90 cm.; flowering June, July; fruiting July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: In general appearance, this species resembles other members of the section *Stellulatae* and especially may be confused with *C. atlantica* and *C. interior*. It differs from these two species by its perigynia being narrow and long beaked; the beak being half to nearly as long as the body of the perigynia.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. to VA and in the mountains to NC, IN, IO, UT, and CA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Holmes, Portage, Richland, and Summit counties. There are pre-1980 records from Lake, Lorain, and Trumbull counties.

HABITAT: Open sphagnum mat in bogs.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor; this species seems to have narrow habitat requirements that are not common in Ohio.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, fruiting specimens.

COMMENTS: Many authors formerly treated this entity as *C. cephalantha*. However, in a revision of the section *Stellulatae*, Reznicek and Ball (1980) demonstrate that it should be treated as *C. echinata* ssp. *echinata*. This sedge is abundant over much of its range, particularly in the northeastern United States. In Ohio, it is rare at all known locations. It should be sought in bogs especially in northeastern Ohio, and northern Ohio in general.

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.

Holmgren, Noel H. 1998. Illustrated companion to Gleason and Cronquist's manual. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York. 937 pp.

Reznicek, A.A. and P.W. 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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