

CAREX LASIOCARPA Ehrh.
var. AMERICANA Fernald
Slender Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Tufted perennial from an elongate, scaly rootstalk, fertile culms 3-12 dm.; fruiting late May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *C. lasiocarpa* is very similar in general appearance to the widespread *C. lanuginosa*. The best distinguishing character is the leaves which are flat and linear in *C. lanuginosa* and involute-filiform in *C. lasiocarpa*. *C. lasiocarpa* usually is found in much wetter sites than *C. lanuginosa*. *C. trichocarpa* superficially resembles *C. lasiocarpa* but can be distinguished by the evident nervation and long teeth of its perigynia, as well as its flat leaves. When sterile, as is frequently the case, it is difficult to separate *C. lasiocarpa* from *C. oligosperma*, a species with involute leaves that grows in similar habitats. These two species can be separated by technical characters of size and shape of perigynia.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. in America to NJ, WV, IO, and WA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Champaign, Clark, Columbiana, Erie, Geauga, Greene, Henry, Logan, Lucas, Portage, Richland, Seneca, Stark, Wayne, and Williams counties. There are pre-1980 records from Licking, Lorain, and Summit Counties.

HABITAT: A variety of wet, open situations, often in deeper water than most other species of *Carex*; fens, marshes, bogs, wet prairies.

HAZARDS: Successional changes.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good due to its rhizomatous habit.

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

COMMENTS: This species should be sought in suitable habitats throughout glaciated Ohio. It is not often collected since it grows in deep water where it is not easily reached. Also, it probably is overlooked because of the small size of the spikelets that may be hidden among its leafy, non-fertile culms. This species may well be more frequent than the few records indicate.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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