

## *Carex mitchelliana* M. A. Curtis

### Mitchell's Sedge



**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Synonyms:** *Carex crinita* Lam. var. *mitchelliana* (M.A. Curtis) Gleason

**Description:** Tufted perennial, culms acutely 3-angled, 40-140 cm long, scabrous; perigynia pale brown, slightly inflated, loosely enclosing achenes, and papillose over entire surface. Achenes are not constricted (Flora of North America 2002).

**Flowering:** late May to July

**Fruiting:** June to late August.

**Similar Species:** *Carex mitchelliana* is very similar to *C. crinita* and once considered a variety of that species and *C. gynandra*. *Carex mitchelliana* can be determined from both of these species by its perigynia being papillose over the entire surface. It has scabrous basal sheathes like *C. gynandra*.



**Total Range: USA:** AL, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, MS, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA.

**Ohio Range:** Ashtabula County.

**Ohio Status:** [www.ohiodnr.com/dnap](http://www.ohiodnr.com/dnap)

**Habitats:** Seepage sedge meadows.

**Threats:** This species is threatened by invasive species such as *Phalaris arundinacea*, *Phragmites australis* ssp. *australis*, and *Rhamnus frangula*.

**Conservation Potential:** This species is rare inland from the coast and additional findings are unlikely in Ohio. The only known Ohio site is

being managed for this species.

**Inventory Guidelines:** A mature fruiting specimen with roots is recommended for proper identification. Collecting should be minimal. Specimens cannot be accurately identified from photographs.

**Comments:** A species recently discovered in Ohio and it was added to the rare plant list in 2006 (Gardner 2006). Associates with *C. mitchelliana* at the Ashtabula County site include: *Toxicodendron vernix*, *Salix* spp. *Cornus sericea*, *Rosa palustris*, *Lindera benzoin*, *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Carex* spp., with widely scattered *Betula allegheniensis*, *Acer rubrum*, and *Nyssa sylvatica*. *Carex mitchelliana* is a rare species throughout its range however new localities have been found recently along the Atlantic coast (Natureserve 2006). This species was likely never frequent in Ohio. Possible new localities may be found in similar seepage wetlands in extreme northeastern Ohio.

### **Selected References:**

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