

CAREX RETRORSA Schwein.
Reflexed Bladder Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Loosely tufted perennial from a short, upright rootstalk, fertile culms 2-10 dm.; fruiting July-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to the closely-related *Carex utricularia* and *C. vesicaria*, but easily distinguished by its reflexed, asymmetrical perigynia and the lowest pistillate bract which is foliaceous and many times longer than the inflorescence. Perhaps confused with *C. lupulina*, which has ascending, not reflexed, perigynia. *C. retrorsa* hybridizes with other sedges, making identification more difficult.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. to B.C., s. to DE, MD, IN, IO, and OR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 collections from Williams County and 19th century collections from Lucas County [J.A. Sanford (OS, 2 sheets)].

HABITAT: A variety of wet situations in shade or semi-shade; swamp woods, alder thickets, shrub borders of bogs, streambanks.

HAZARDS: Opening of canopy by clearing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly poor.

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

COMMENTS: This species could be overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio. *Carex retrorsa* has often been reported to hybridize with other sedges. One of these hybrids, that with *C. lupuliformis*, has been collected from Lorain County.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Mackenzie, K.K. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 523.

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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