

Carex reznicekii Werier

Reznicek's Sedge



Family: Cyperaceae

Synonyms: None

Description: Densely caespitose, herbaceous perennial herb with culms 1.3 to 10 cm long, erect to ascending from long strongly fibrous sheaf bases. Leaves about 1 mm to 2.5 mm wide; spikes arising singly from nodes; terminal spike staminate with lateral pistillate spikes; pistillate scales with green mid-stripe with margins whitish to occasionally yellow-brown often with some reddish color sub-marginally; perigynia 2.7-3.9 mm long and 0.8 to 1.5 mm wide (Werier 2006).

Flowering: early April to early May

Fruiting: late April to late May.

Similar Species: *Carex reznicekii* is very similar to *Carex nigromarginata* but differs in narrower leaves and pistillate scales only tinged with red while *C. nigromarginata* scales are dark purplish/black coloration that extends laterally from the submargin to the green (less often brown) mid-stripe. *Carex reznicekii* may also be confused with *Carex umbellata* but has wider leaves than *C. umbellata* and absence of basal spikes.



Total Range: USA: AL, AR, CT, DE, GA, KY, MD, MO, MS, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, VA.

Ohio Range: Adams, Jackson, Meigs.

Ohio Status: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

Habitats: Dry woods on sandy soils.

Threats: Forest habitat lost to development.

Conservation Potential: *Carex reznicekii* is likely more frequent than currently known and probably reacts favorably to disturbances (canopy thinning/fires).

Inventory Guidelines: Collect mature fruiting specimens, cannot be positively identified from photos.

Comments: *Carex reznicekii* is a newly described sedge from the section *Acrocystis* split from the uncommon *Carex nigromarginata*. Its range is not completely known and only discovered in by examination of herbarium specimens. As of April 2008 it is known from only 3 collections from south-central Ohio. The earliest collection is from 1990; however not all Ohio herbaria have been examined for this species.

Currently, it has been collected on sandy soils from dry, open oak woods. Werier (2006) reports it from mesic deciduous forests as well as dry deciduous forests.

At some sites, *Carex reznicekii* occurs mixed with *Carex nigromarginata* (Werier 2006). This species should be sought throughout southern Ohio. It is likely more frequent than currently known.

See Werier (2006) for key, illustration and in-depth discussion of the differences between *Carex reznicekii* and *C. nigromarginata* and *C. umbellata*.

Selected References:

Werier, D. A. 2006. *Carex reznicekii*, a new widespread species of *Carex* section *Acrocystis* (Cyperaceae) from eastern North America, *Sida* 22(2):1049-1070.



Ohio Natural Heritage Program

ODNR - Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
2045 Morse Road, Building F-1
Columbus, Ohio 43229
www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

Last updated: April/2008