

CAREX RICHARDSONII R. Br.
Richardson's Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Loosely tufted perennial from an elongate, brownish, scaly rootstalk, fertile culms 15-35.; fruiting May.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to *Carex pedunculata* in its growth habit and early anthesis. However, *C. richardsonii* can be distinguished by its elongate rhizome and terminal spikelet which is staminate throughout. *C. pedunculata* has a short, upright rootstalk and the terminal spikelet has a few pistillate flowers at base.

TOTAL RANGE: VT to Alta., s. to OH, IN, IA, and SD.

STATE RANGE: ERIE CO.: Castalia Cemetery, 9 May 1897, E.L. Moseley (BGSU).

STATE STATUS: 1980 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Dry openings and oak woods, especially in sandy soil.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete mature specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: This species is quite inconspicuous except when in flower or fruit. It blooms early and, according to Voss (1972), it is "flourishing for only a few days". Probably it has been overlooked by collectors and/or misidentified. It should be sought in suitable situations throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Mackenzie, K.K. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 246.

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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