

CAREX STRIATULA Michx.
Lined Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Carex laxiflora* Lam. var. *angustifolia* Dewey; *Carex laxiflora* Lam. var. *striatula* (Michx.) Carey

HABIT: Loosely tufted perennial from an elongate rootstalk, fertile culms 2-6 dm.; fruiting May, June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Extremely similar to other members of the section Laxiflorae, especially *Carex gracilescens* and *C. laxiflora* which occur in similar habitats. It is virtually impossible to determine these species accurately without microscopic examination of technical characters of the inflorescence. *C. striatula* allegedly differs also from these species in the absence of sterile culms and in the color of the lowest leaf sheaths, but many specimens are apparent intergrades between these species (see Comments).

TOTAL RANGE: L.I. and PA to FL, w. to TN and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Lawrence and Licking counties. There are pre-1980 collections from Portage, Scioto, and Trumbull counties.

HABITAT: Mesic woods; shaded alluvial situations.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly clearing of woods.

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

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

COMMENTS: Sedges in this group are extremely difficult to identify accurately. There is little agreement between treatments as to the taxonomic status of the members of the Laxiflorae. More research is needed to assess accurately the status of this sedge in Ohio. It should be sought throughout the state. It well may be overlooked and/or misidentified.

Hermann (1940) indicates that in Indiana, *C. striatula* cannot be separated at all from *C. laxiflora*, not even at a varietal level, because of the numerous intergrades. Ohio specimens, however, seem to match the characters of *C. striatula* very well, particularly the collection from Licking County. *C. striatula* is herein retained at a species rank awaiting further investigation of this difficult group.

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.

Hermann, F.J. 1940. *Carex*. p. 212-276. In: Deam, C.C. Authorized reprint 1970. Flora of Indiana. Verlag Von J. Cramer, S-H Service Agency, New York, NY. 1236 p.

Mackenzie, K.K. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 297.



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