

CYPERUS REFRACTUS Engelm.
Reflexed Umbrella-sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from a short, thick rhizome with corm-like enlargements; culms 3-9 dm.; fruiting August, September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Easily confused with the common *Cyperus esculentus* and *C. strigosus*. Distinguished from these as follows: *C. refractus*-- rhizome enlarged, without stolons, scales terete or angled, remote on the rachis; *C. esculentus*-- rhizome with stolons, scales compressed, overlapping on rachis; *C. strigosus*-- rhizome enlarged, without stolons, scales compressed, overlapping on rachis.

TOTAL RANGE: NJ to OH and MO, s. to SC, GA, AL, and AR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Gallia and Lawrence counties. Pre-1980 records are from Jackson and Vinton counties.

HABITAT: A variety of open, dry situations, usually in sandy soil; fields, open woods, clearings, barrens.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good, since it is tolerant of moderate disturbance.

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

COMMENTS: This species is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout southern Ohio. It may be more frequent than the few records indicate.

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.

Radford, A.E., H.E. Ahles, and C.R. Bell. 1968. Manual of the vascular flora of the Carolinas. Univ. of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC. 1183 p.



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