

ELEOCHARIS OVATA (Roth) R. & S.
Ovate Spike-rush

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Tufted annual with fibrous roots; culms 0.3-5 dm long; flowering and fruiting late July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to *Eleocharis obtusa*, which has a similar blooming period, habit, and habitats. The tubercle of *E. ovata* is 2/3 or less as broad as the achene compared to nearly as broad as the achene of *E. obtusa*.

TOTAL RANGE: Widespread in N. Hemisphere, and found throughout our range.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Erie and Ottawa Counties.

HABITAT: Open, muddy or other moist places.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; development of wetlands.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably good since it is not restricted to specific moist habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete specimens with underground parts and mature fruit.

COMMENTS: This species is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought in suitable habitats in northern Ohio, especially in the lake plain. Gleason and Cronquist (1991) merge *E. obtusa* under *E. ovata* without rank. This treatment has resulted in false reports of this species, for example Bennett and Course (1996).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Bennett, J.P. and Jennifer E.J. Course. 1996. The vascular flora of Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, Ross County, OH. Unpublished report. pp. 28.

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Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. Of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 pp.



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