

ELEOCHARIS QUINQUEFLORA (Hartmann) O. Schwarz
Few-flowered Spikerush

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYM: *Eleocharis pauciflora* (Lightf.) Link.

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial 1-3(4) dm tall; tufted from a short rhizome; fruiting July-September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles several other rhizomatous spike-rushes with slender culms, such as *E. acicularis* or *E. olivacea*. Distinguished from these by the tubercle on the summit of the achene, which in *E. pauciflora* is not clearly differentiated from the body of the achene but appears as a continuation of the body. *E. rostellata* also exhibits this tubercle character, but has notably coarser, flattened culms.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. in America to NJ, PA, OH, IN, IL, IO, NM, and California; and South America.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 specimens from 5 counties: Champaign, Clark, Ross, Seneca, and Williams.

STATE STATUS: 1980-1983: Endangered, 1984 to present: Threatened.

HABITAT: Moist, open situations in calcareous substrates; fens, wet prairies, sedge meadows.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth of woody species through succession; nonnative species invasion; alteration of water levels; soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably good.

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

COMMENTS: Our plants may be differentiated as variety *fernaldii* Svenson. It may no longer be extant at the Seneca County site due to the invasion of the non-native narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*). This species forms extensive mats and is often a dominant component of its limited habitat. Still, it is frequently overlooked and/or misidentified due to its obscure appearance and close resemblance to other species. It should be sought in suitable situations throughout Ohio, especially in prairie fens of west central Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae [of Ohio]: Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus OH. 464 pp. Svenson, H.K. 1957. Scirpeae (continuatio). N. Am. Flora 18: 509-540. 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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