

JUNCUS ALPINUS Vill.
Alpine Rush

FAMILY: Juncaceae.

SYNONYM: *Juncus alpinoarticulatus* Chaix.

HABIT: Erect or slightly decumbent perennial herb to 5 dm., in small tufts from slender rhizomes; flowering July, August; fruiting late July- September.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Many members of this genus are superficially similar. *Juncus alpinus* most closely resembles *Juncus articulatus* and is distinguished from it only by technical characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. in our range to PA, IN, and MO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are known from Ashtabula, Erie, Lake, Lucas and Ottawa counties. Pre-1980 record exists from Cuyahoga County.

HABITAT: Wet, open to semi-open situations; in sandy, usually calcareous soil: shores of lakes and ponds, marshes, ditches, wet meadows, and wet areas of abandoned limestone quarries.

HAZARDS: Drainage or other alteration of the wetland habitat; also, overshadowing by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good since it appears able to colonize disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: In this and related species, the number of stamens, 3 or 6, is an important character. Braun (1967) states that the number of stamens is more readily determined in fresh than in dried specimens.

COMMENTS: It is possible that this species is somewhat more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. Like many other members of the genus, it is easily misidentified. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio in suitable habitats.

Reinking (1981) has described hybrid populations of *J. alpinus* with *J. torreyi* in Erie and Ottawa counties. This hybrid (*J. X stuckeyi* Reinking) should be sought wherever the two parents occur.

The name *Juncus alpinus* is used by all our familiar regional manuals and keys. However, Hamet-Ahti (1980) claims that the correct name for this taxon is *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae of Ohio : Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus, OH. 464 p.

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.

Hamet-Ahti, L. 1980. *Juncus alpinoarticulatus*: The legitimate name for *Juncus alpinus*. Ann. Bot. Fennici 17: 341-342.

Reinking, M. 1981. *Juncus X stuckeyi* (Juncaceae), a natural hybrid from northern Ohio. Brittonia 33: 170-178.



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