

JUNCUS BALTICUS Willd.
Baltic Rush

FAMILY: Juncaceae

SYNONYMS: *Juncus balticus* Willd. var. *littoralis* Engelm.; *Juncus arcticus* Willd. var. *littoralis* (Engelm.) Boivin

HABIT: Perennial herb with evenly spaced row of stems arising from elongate rhizome, 4-8 dm; flowers and fruits late May-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *J. balticus* and *J. effusus* both have lateral appearing inflorescence, but *J. balticus* grows in rows and has six stamens, whereas *J. effusus* grows in clumps and has three stamens.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; the North American form, *J. balticus* var. *littoralis*, occurs s. to PA and MO, and is especially frequent around the Great Lakes; South America.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Ashland, Champaign, Clark, Erie, Greene, Logan, Lake, Miami, Ottawa, Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties. There are pre-1980 records from Allen, Ashtabula, Crawford, Cuyahoga, Sandusky, and Trumbull Counties.

HABITAT: Fens, dunes and beaches, wet ditches. The species is always associated with calcareous or brackish environments.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Good, this species grows in a variety of habitats and responds well to disturbance; this species benefits from the woody species removal that is practiced at several Ohio fens.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: The single involucral leaf is long and resembles the stem beneath, giving the inflorescence its lateral appearance. *J. balticus* and *J. arcticus* may be considered separate species within a circumboreal species complex. However, when these taxa are combined into one species, North American plants are *J. arcticus* var. *littoralis*.

This species should be sought in fens and other calcareous habitats throughout glaciated Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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