JUNCUS PLATYPHYLLUS (Wieg.) Fern.
Flat-leaved Rush

FAMILY: Juncaceae

SYNONYM: Juncus dichotomus Ell. var. platyphyllus Wieg.

HABIT: Perennial herb; 1.5-10 dm.; in dense tussocks; flowering June-September; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Juncus platyphyllus is similar to and may easily be confused with Juncus tenuis, Juncus dudleyi, and Juncus interior. It is distinguished from these species by its leaf sheath-auricles and technical flower or fruit characters.

TOTAL RANGE: Almost throughout North America, and naturalized elsewhere.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Erie and Gallia counties. There are pre-1980 collections from Adams, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Mahoning, Pike, Portage, Scioto, and Stark counties.

HABITAT: Dry to moist, open to semi-open situations; usually in sandy, acid soil: lakeshores, streambanks, mud flats, floodplains, wet meadows, roadsides, and gravelly banks.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its variety of habitats and ability to colonize disturbed areas.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification. The size, color and texture of the leaf sheath-auricles are also important key characters.

COMMENTS: It is quite possible that this species is more frequent in Ohio than current records indicate. Like many other members of this genus, it is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout the state, especially in northeastern and southern Ohio. Some authors treat this taxon as a variety of J. dichotomus (see Synonym), a plant of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. There has also been speculation that it represents a hybrid. It is here retained at the specific level pending further taxonomic research.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 2/1984 James Burns