

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:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae of Ohio : Cat-tails to orchids. The Ohio State University 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.

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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Created: 2/1984 James Burns