

LIPOCARPHA MICRANTHA (Vahl) Pax
Dwarf Bulrush

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYM: *Hemicarpha micrantha* (Vahl) Britton

HABIT: Tufted annual, fertile culms 2-15 cm.; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to a depauperate *Scirpus*, especially *S. smithii*, which may be found in the same habitat. Distinguished from *Scirpus* by the presence of a tiny, translucent scale at the base of the achene.

TOTAL RANGE: Tropical America, n. to ME, MN, and WA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Erie, Hamilton, Henry, Lake, Lucas, and Montgomery counties. There are pre-1980 collections from 3 other counties: Ashtabula, Jackson, and Pickaway.

HABITAT: Open, moist situations, usually in sandy substrates; fields, sand pits, lake margins, ditches.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good as it is known from disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens; over-collecting of annuals should be avoided.

COMMENTS: This species is difficult to see amid other vegetation and the tiny scale upon which identification depends is easily overlooked. It should be sought throughout the state. It well may be more frequent than the records indicate. Many manuals erroneously attribute authorship of *H. micrantha* to Britton, when the true author is Pax. Britton published the combination in 1888 (Friedland, 1941), apparently one year after it was published by Pax (Jones and Fuller, 1955).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Argus, G.W. and D.J. White. 1982. Atlas of the rare vascular plants of Ontario: Part 1. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa, Canada. n.p.

Friedland, S. 1941. The American species of *Hemicarpha*. Am. J. Bot. 28: 855-861.

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.

Jones, G.N. and G.D. Fuller. 1955. Vascular plants of Illinois. Univ. of Illinois Press, Urbana, and Illinois State Museum, Springfield, IL. 593 p.

Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI. 488 p.



Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 11/1983 Allison W. Cusick, James Burns