

LUZULA BULBOSA (Wood) Rydb.
Southern Woodrush

FAMILY: Juncaceae

SYNONYMS: *Luzula campestris* (L.) DC. var. *bulbosa* Wood; *Luzula multiflora* (Ehrh.)
Lejeune var. *bulbosa* (Wood) Hermann; *Luzula multiflora* (Retz.) Lejeune var.
bulbosa (Wood) Hermann

HABIT: Perennial herb to 4.5 dm.; flowering late March-June; fruiting April-June.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Luzula bulbosa* is very similar to and may be confused with other members of this genus. The name "*bulbosa*" is misleading. The crowded, enlarged leaf bases that appear to be "bulbs" actually are segments of the rhizomes. Also, other species of *Luzula* possess these "bulbs"; they are not exclusive to *L. bulbosa*. This is a source of frequent misidentifications in this genus. The species are determined accurately only by careful examination of flower and fruit characters.

TOTAL RANGE: FL to TX, n. to MA, CT, NJ, PA, IN, MO, and KS.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are known from Adams, Athens, Clermont, Columbiana, Mahoning, Portage, Ross and Summit counties. Pre-1980 records are from Scioto County.

HABITAT: Usually in dry, open to semi-open situations, often in sandy, acid soil: open oak woods, clearings, and fields.

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

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown if natural recovery is allowed but probably excellent if planted in its native habitat. Coffey (1970) states that it is easily transplanted.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification.

COMMENTS: The presence of this species in both northeastern and extreme southern Ohio suggests that it may be more frequent across the state than current records indicate. It could easily be overlooked due to its small size. It is also easily misidentified. Braun (1967) states that a number of Ohio specimens are intermediate between *L. bulbosa* and *Luzula echinata*. It should be sought in appropriate habitats throughout the state.

There is considerable taxonomic confusion surrounding this species, and also, the genus. Various authors have treated this taxon as a variety of both *L. campestris* and *L. multiflora*. The situation is briefly discussed by Coffey (1970). The taxon is here retained at the specific level pending further clarification of this confusing situation.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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

Coffey, J.C. 1970. Investigations in *Luzula*: Species of the southeastern United States. *Castanea* 35: 68-77.

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.



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