

PIPTOCHAETIUM AVENACEUM
Black-seeded Needle Grass

FAMILY: Gramineae (Poaceae)

HABIT: Herbaceous caespitose perennial, 3-10 dm.; flowering April-June (rarely September).

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus *Piptochaetium* is distinctive. Two species occur in Ohio, both of which are rare. Identification is based upon technical characters.

TOTAL RANGE: N. FL to e. TX, n. to MA, NY, MI, and WI.

STATE RANGE: LAWRENCE CO.: dry woods, 1/2 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, Elizabeth Twp., 2 May 1954, F. Bartley (OS); dry open woods, 1 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, 2 May 1954, F. Bartley (BHO, OS); dry woods, 2 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, 2 May 1954, F. Bartley (OS); dry open woods, 1 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, 29 May 1955, F. Bartley (BHO). Stuckey & Roberts (1982) indicate that this species was collected in Lawrence County in 1953 also, but no basis for this date is known.

STATE STATUS: 1980-1983: Endangered, 1984 to present: Presumed Extirpated.

HABITAT: Dry ground in woods, especially oak woods, and dry openings.

HAZARDS: When young, this is a palatable grass subject to grazing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumed good due to the abundance of seemingly suitable habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material needed for identification. Collect the underground parts and note density of basal tufts.

COMMENTS: This grass may very well exist in many more locations in Ohio, as it occurs in all of the surrounding states. It is a conspicuous plant that is unlikely to be overlooked.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Hitchcock, A.S. 1925. The North American species of *Stipa*. *Contr. U.S. Natl. Herb.* 24: 215-262.

Hitchcock, A.S. 1951. *Manual of grasses of the United States*. Ed. 2, rev. by A. Chase. U.S. Dep. Agr. Misc. Publ. 200. 1051 p.

Stuckey, R.L. and M.L. Roberts. 1982. Monocotyledons. In: Cooperrider, T.S. (ed.). *Endangered and threatened plants of Ohio*. *Ohio biol. Surv. Biol. Notes* No. 16: 48-84.



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