

PIPTATHERUM RACEMOSUM (Sm.) Barkworth
Mountain-rice

FAMILY: Poaceae.

Synonyms: *Oryzopsis racemosum* (Sm.) Ricker ex Hitchc., *Oryzopsis melanocarpa* Muhl.

HABIT: Tufted perennial, culms erect, 3-9 dm tall, leafy to the summit; flowering and fruiting late June-early October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to other species in the genus *Oryzopsis*; close examination of vegetative and fruit characters is needed for identification. It may also be superficially confused with the common *Brachyelytrum erectum*.

TOTAL RANGE: Quebec to Ontario, MN, and ND, s. to VA, KY, MO, and NE.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records from Adams, Greene, Highland, Lake, Lorain, Pike, and Ross counties. There are pre-1980 records from Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Holmes, Medina, Portage and Summit counties.

HABITAT: Rich and rocky deciduous woods, often on top of sandstone exposures.

HAZARDS: Possibly overgrazing by deer; soil compaction.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good, since it is known to grow in variety of woodland habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species like other grasses can be overlooked. It may be more frequent than current records indicate. It should be sought in suitable habitats throughout Ohio, especially in northeastern and southwestern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Division of Natural Areas and Preserves
Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Created: 4/1998 Richard Gardner