

RHYNCHOSPORA ALBA (L.) Vahl
White Beak-rush

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Densely tufted, herbaceous perennial, fertile culms 1-8 dm.; fruiting July-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: When mature, this species is very distinctive and not likely to be misidentified. Immature specimens superficially resemble other young sedges or rushes.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal, s. to NC, OH, n. IN, MN, and CA.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Ashtabula, Champaign, Clark, Geauga, Holmes, Licking, Logan, Portage, Seneca, Stark, Summit, and Wayne counties. There are pre-1950 collections from Ashland, Erie, Huron, Lorain, and Richland counties.

HABITAT: A variety of open, wet situations; both in acidic and basic substrates, though more frequent in the latter; bogs, fens, meadows, lake margins, ditches.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good as it is known from disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This is a conspicuous and readily identified species. It may be locally common in suitable habitats. It should be sought throughout glaciated Ohio.

A hybrid between this species and *Rhynchospora capitellata* has been reported, though not from Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gale, S. 1944. *Rhynchospora*, section Eurhynchospora, in Canada, the United States and the West Indies. *Rhodora* 46: 89-134.

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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