

SCHIZACHYRIUM LITTORALE (Nash) E.P. Bicknell  
Coastal Little Bluestem

FAMILY: Poaceae (Gramineae)

SYNONYMS: Schizachyrium littorale Gould

Andropogon scoparius Michx. var. littoralis (Nash) Hitch.

Andropogon littoralis Nash.

HABIT: Culms loosely or densely tufted, 5-12 dm tall; flowering and fruiting August to mid-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Similar to the common variety but can be distinguished from it by its prominently keeled leaf sheaths and the cilia of the rachis being longer.

TOTAL RANGE: Coastal sands from e. Mass. to N.C.; disjunct along the shores of the Great Lakes.

STATE RANGE: Post-1970 records from Ashtabula and Lake counties. Pre-1970 record from Erie County.

STATE STATUS: 1994 to present: Endangered.

HABITAT: Beaches and sand dunes.

HAZARDS: Beach development.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed poor, because it is restricted to the beaches and sand dunes along Lake Erie where development has destroyed most of its habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species should be sought along the shores of Lake Erie. Pictures of this variety can be found in Fernald and Griscom (1935).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gould, F.W. 1967. The grass genus *Andropogon* in the United States. *Brittonia* 19(1):70-76.

Fernald, M.L. and Ludlow Griscom. 1935. Three days of botanizing in southeastern Virginia. *Rhodora* 37: 129-157; 167-189.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 4/1998 Richard Gardner