

SCHIZACHNE PURPURASCENS (Torr.) Swallen
False Melic

FAMILY: Poaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous, sparsely caespitose perennial, 3-10 dm.; flowering May- August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This is a rather distinctive grass, unlikely to be confused with other Ohio species.

TOTAL RANGE: s. Canada to AK and n. Eurasia, s. to PA, KY, NE, and Mexico.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Greene, and Portage counties. Pre-1960 records exist from Franklin and Sandusky counties.

HABITAT: In woodlands of various types, and also sandy or rocky openings.

HAZARDS: Unknown, possibly grazing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumed good due to the availability of habitat.

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

COMMENTS: This species should be sought in appropriate habitats throughout Ohio. When in flower, it is easily recognized, but otherwise may be overlooked.

Koyama and Kawano (1964) treat the eastern Asiatic element of this species as ssp. *callosa* (Turcz.) T. Koyama & Kawano; the North American element is then referable to ssp. *purpurascens*. Dore and McNeill (1980) separate this North American subspecies into two varieties; var. *purpurascens* and var. *pubescens* Dore, on the basis of leaf pubescence and geographic distribution. However, the taxon is here treated as a single variable entity.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Dore, W.G. and J. McNeill. 1980. Grasses of Ontario. Agric. Canada Monograph 26. 556 p.

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

Koyama, T. and S. Kawano. 1964. Critical taxa of grasses with North American and eastern Asiatic distribution. Can. J. Bot. 42: 859-884.



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