

Olney's Three-square
Schoenoplectus americanus (Persoon) Volkart ex Schinz & R. Keller



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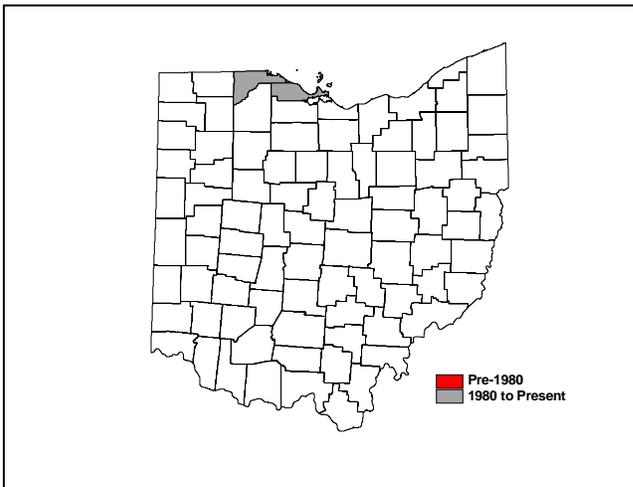
Family: Cyperaceae

Synonyms: *Scirpus americanus* Persoon; *S. olneyi* A. Gray

Description: Rhizomatous perennial; culms sharply trigonous, sides deeply concave, 0.5-1.5 m. long.

Flowering: June to late July; **Fruiting:** July to late September.

Similar Species: *Schoenoplectus americanus* is very similar to *S. pungens* and can be easily overlooked for this reason. The culms of *S. americanus* are larger, more deeply concave (“winged”) than *S. pungens*.



Total Range: USA: AL, AZ, CA, CN, DE, FL, GA, ID, KA, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MS, MO, NV, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OK, OR, RI, SC, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WY; Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Central & South America.

State Range (as of 2006): Lucas & Ottawa counties.

Habitats: Shallow pools on Lake Erie beaches.

Threats: Beach erosion from wave action and shoreline development.

Conservation Potential: This species likely was never common in Ohio and is restricted to shores along Lake Erie. All known sites occur on public conservation lands.

Inventory Guidelines: A mature fruiting specimen with roots is recommended for proper identification. Collecting should be minimal.

Comments: *Schoenoplectus americanus* is primarily found along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts with a scattered locations inland. Braun (1967) and others misapplied *Scirpus americanus* to *Scirpus pungens*.

In 2002, *Schoenoplectus americanus* was discovered in Ohio at Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge (McCormac 2003).

Sterile hybrids between *Schoenoplectus americanus* and *S. pungens* have been found where the two species co-occur and a named *S. X contortus* (Eames) Koyama. This hybrid has not been found in Ohio.

This species is likely restricted to the Lake Erie lakeshore in Ohio. It should be sought on beaches along Lake Erie.

References:

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