

SCHOENOPLECTUS SMITHII (A. Gray) Sojak  
Smith's Bulrush

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYM: *Scirpus smithii* A. Gray

HABIT: Tufted annual; fertile culms 0.1-4 dm.; fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles small individuals of other leafless bulrushes, such as *Schoenoplectus americanus*, but distinguished by its annual habit. Often confused with the closely-related *S. purshianus*. These two species may be distinguished as follows: *S. smithii*--culms slender, achenes smooth, flattened on one side; *S. purshianus*--culms somewhat coarser, achenes pitted, rounded on each side.

TOTAL RANGE: Que. to MN, s. to GA and w. TN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Logan and Ottawa counties.

HABITAT: Sandy or muddy shores, beaches, interdunal swales, mudflats; usually on neutral substrates.

HAZARDS: Sudden changes in water level; mechanical shoreline disturbance.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but perhaps good since it occurs in disturbed habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This small bulrush may be easily overlooked and/or misidentified. Also, its appearance in any site is rather unpredictable and the size of populations may vary greatly from year to year. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio. It may be more frequent than the few records indicate.

The taxonomic treatment followed here excludes from *S. smithii* the plants known as *S. purshianus*. See the Element Abstract for *S. purshianus* (A-114) for a discussion of this problem.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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