

***Scirpus expansus* Fern.**
Woodland Bulrush



Photo Credit: Richard L. Gardner

Family: Cyperaceae

Synonyms: None

Description: Herbaceous perennial from a thick, reddish rootstock; fertile culms 0.6 to 1.5 m. long; inflorescence 2-3 times branched; achene, a pale or purplish brown, 1-1.5(6) mm long with a minute beak.

Flowering: Late June to August

Fruiting: July to September

Similar Species: Similar to the common *Scirpus atrovirens*, *S. georgianus*, and *S.*

hattorianus, which grow in similar habitats. *Scirpus expansus* can be distinguished from these species by its coarse culms with reddish, septate-nodulose sheaths.



Total Range: USA: AL, CT, DC, DE, GA, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, WV; CAN: NS, ON.

Ohio Range: Ashland, Holmes, Knox, Morrow, Ottawa, Richland and Wayne counties.

Ohio Status: www.ohiodnr.com/dnap

Habitats: Open to semi-shaded wetlands; ditches, fens, marshes, seepages, alder thickets, and shrub borders of bogs.

Threats: Changes to hydrology, invasive species, and overgrowth by woody species.

Conservation Potential: A number of populations occur in small isolated wetlands that can be easily altered or destroyed. A few populations occur on conserved land. Additional populations are expected in north-central Ohio.

Inventory Guidelines: Collect flowering/fruitlet material with portion of rhizome. This species is difficult to verify from photographs.

Comments: Although the common name is woodland bulrush it typically grows in open wetlands in full or partial sun. Associates listed at a few locations include: *Carex lacustris*, *C. trichocarpa*, *Eupatorium maculatum*, *E. perfoliatum*, *Impatiens capensis*, *Leersia oryzoides*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, *Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani*, *Scirpus atrovirens*, *Solidago patula*, *Symplocarpus foetidus*, and *Typha latifolia*.

This species is local in Ohio and throughout its range. Though it may be confused with other species, it is not likely to be overlooked. It should be sought throughout northern and central Ohio.

Selected References:

Braun, E.L. 1967. The Monocotyledoneae [of Ohio]. Cat-tail to orchids. Ohio State University Press, Columbus. ix + 464 pp.

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Strausbaugh, P.D. & E.L. Core. 1977. Flora of West Virginia. 2nd Edition. Seneca Books Inc., Morgantown, WV. XI + 1079 pp.



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