

SCLERIA PAUCIFLORA Muhl. ex Willd.  
Few-flowered Nut-rush

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial from an elongate rootstalk, fertile culms 1.5- 7.5 dm.;  
fruiting late June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially similar to *Scleria triglomerata*, but differing in its  
sculptured, rather than smooth, nutlet. Also resembles members of the genus  
*Rhynchospora*. In *Rhynchospora*, the nutlets are crowned by an evident tubercle,  
a feature lacking in the nutlets of *Scleria*.

TOTAL RANGE: NH to MI, and MO, s. to FL, TX, W.I., and Mexico.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Jackson,  
Lucas, and Meigs Counties. There are pre-1980 records from Erie, Fulton,  
Miami, Pike, Ross and Wood Counties.

HABITAT: Open, moist situations, often in sand; lake margins, wet fields, bogs.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good due to its rhizomatous habit.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens including underground  
parts.

COMMENTS: This is a little-known species that easily may be overlooked. The nutlets  
are nearly hidden by the leafy bracts, except when very mature. It should be  
sought in suitable habitats throughout the state.

Some authors recognize three varieties of this species. Ohio plants have been  
assigned both to the typical variety and to the more southern var. *caroliniana*  
(Willd.) Wood. However, these varieties intergrade so completely, that it seems  
best to treat the species as a single, variable entity. Many Ohio plants exhibit  
such intergradation and are difficult to name accurately.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 3/1981 Allison W. Cusick