XYRIS TORTA Sm.
Twisted Yellow-eyed-grass

FAMILY: Xyridaceae.

HABIT: Rosette-forming, herbaceous perennial from a bulbous base, flowering scape 15-100 cm.; flowering July, August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to Xyris difformis. X. torta has a hard, bulbous base, while X. difformis has a soft base. Non-flowering rosettes are not identifiable with any certainty.

TOTAL RANGE: Cent. NH and MA, w. through Great Lakes region of Ont., NY, OH, MI, IN, WI, and MN, s. to GA and TX.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1980 collections from Erie, Lucas and Scioto counties. There are pre-1980 records from Cuyahoga, Henry and Wood counties. Also listed from Gallia and Jackson counties by Braun (1967).

HABITAT: Dry to moist openings on sandy or clayey substrates; fields, ditches, seepage banks, pond margins; often on freshly exposed soil.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession; compaction of loose soil.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably good; it is known to thrive in recently disturbed situations.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect flowering material; note the bulbous base.

COMMENTS: Even when in flower, it is easy to overlook this species, particularly when it is overtopped by grasses in moist fields. Non-flowering individuals are virtually impossible to locate. Intensive searching should locate additional populations of this species in Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 11/1983 Allison W. Cusick