

CAREX ALATA T. & G.
Broad-winged Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, blackish, fibrillose rootstalk, fertile culms 2-12 dm.; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Carex alata* differs from the similar *C. straminea* by its perigynia being broadest above the middle and spikelets being only slightly clavate at the base or rounded. It differs from other species with broad perigynia by its pistillate scales narrowing to slender awn-tips. This species is one of a series of sedges, the section Ovaes, the members of which are extremely difficult to identify accurately and careful examination is needed for identification.

TOTAL RANGE: Along the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains from MA to FL to TX, also inland in NY, OH, s. Ontario, MI, IN, and MO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Champaign, Erie, Geauga, Lucas, Portage, Seneca, Summit, Wayne and Williams. There are pre-1980 records from 3 other counties: Cuyahoga, Lake, and Stark.

HABITAT: Moist situations in sun to semi-shade, often in neutral substrates; meadows, woods borders, lake margins, bogs, fens, clearings in woods.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Fair, as it can grow in disturbed wetlands.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens. Deam (1940) and Reznicek and Catling (1982) suggest that this sedge may occur as only one or two clumps at each station. Should this be the case with Ohio populations, care should be taken to collect only a portion of a clump and to minimize disturbance to the portion left in the ground.

COMMENTS: The members of this group of sedges are notoriously difficult to identify. This species easily may be overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout northern Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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