FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Tufted perennial from a short, stout, black rootstalk, fertile culms very thick, 5-9 dm.; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially this species resembles the common Carex laevivaginata and C. stipata, both of which grow in similar habitats as well. However, C. crus-corvi is the only Ohio species with the following combination of characters: multi-branched inflorescence; leaf sheaths purple-dotted; perigynia very large with prominent long beaks and a swollen, disc-like base.

TOTAL RANGE: Throughout the Gulf States and n. into the interior to IN, s. Ontario, s. MI, and s. MN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Auglaize, Hardin, Know, Mercer, Paulding, Pickaway, and Van Wert counties. Pre-1980 records are from Wood County.

HABITAT: Swampy woods, wooded floodplains, various shaded alluvial situations, road ditches.

HAZARDS: Clearing of woods; stream channelization.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but probably poor.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This species is easily confused with the common C. stipata and C. laevivaginata. Some Ohio specimens appear to intergrade with these species. It may be easily overlooked or misidentified. It should be sought in appropriate habitats throughout western Ohio.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


