

CAREX MESOCHOREA Mackenzie
Midland Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

SYNONYMS: *Carex cephalophora* Muhl. var. *mesochorea* (Mack). Gleason.

HABIT: Densely tufted perennial from a short, fibrillose rootstalk, fertile culms 1.5-10 dm.; fruiting late May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Extremely similar to other members of the section Bracteosae, especially *Carex cephalophora* and *C. leavenworthii*, from which it can be separated only with difficulty. Accurate determination is possible only with careful examination and measurement of the perigynia and inflorescence.

TOTAL RANGE: MA to VA, IN, MO, TN, and TX.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There are post-1980 records from Adams, Butler, Erie, Greene, Marion, Preble, and Summit counties. Pre-1980 records are from Highland, Licking, and Ross counties.

HABITAT: Well-drained openings and clearings; oak woods and borders; fields.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens.

COMMENTS: This is an obscure species which is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout the state. Intermediates are known between this species and *Carex cephalophora*. However, the species rank for *C. mesochorea* is maintained here pending further research. The few Ohio specimens do not exhibit the intergradation reported in other states.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A. and Cronquist, A. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY. 910 pp.

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Voss, E.G. 1972. Michigan flora, Part I, Gymnosperms and monocots. Cranbrook Inst. of Sci. Bull. 55, Bloomfield Hills, MI 488 p.



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