*Carex timida* R. F. C. Naczi & B. A. Ford
Timid Sedge

**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Synonyms:** None

**Description:** Culms up to 34 cm; leaves basal brown and tinged red-purple; staminate spike 2-12 flowered, 3.4-5.6 long, pistillate spike 2-3 (rarely 4 flowered); perigynia 2-3 (rarely 4) per spike, narrowly ovoid, obovoid, or ellipsoid 4.3-5.5 x 1.6-2.1 mm; beak 1.4-2.3 (rarely up to 2.5) mm long, scabrous (Naczi & Ford 2001).

**Flowering:** late April to late May
**Fruiting:** early May to late June (rarely to mid-July).

**Similar Species:** *Carex timida* is a recently described species split from *Carex jamesii* (Naczi & Ford 2001). *Carex timida* differs from *C. jamesii* by its culms that are purplish-red at the base and by the shorter staminate portion of the terminal spike. *Carex timida* typically is a smaller plant and has weaker (often dropping when mature) fertile culms than *C. jamesii*. It may also be confused with similar sedges *C. juniperorum* and *C. willdenowii*.

**Total Range:** USA: AL, AR, IN, KY, MO, OH, OK, TN.

**Ohio Range:** Butler, Champaign, Delaware, Miami, Montgomery, and Preble counties.

**Ohio Status:** [www.ohiodnr.com/dnap](http://www.ohiodnr.com/dnap)

**Habitats:** Dry to mesic woods and cedar woodlands on limestone-based soils.

**Threats:** Development and incompatible logging threaten the species.

**Conservation Potential:** *Carex timida* appears to tolerate moderate disturbances as it has been found in young woodlands. Two sites are protected on public conservation lands.

**Inventory Guidelines:** A mature fruiting specimen with roots is recommended for proper identification. Collecting should be minimal. Specimens cannot be accurately identified from photographs.
Comments: In Ohio, it has been found growing in dry to mesic woods under *Acer saccharum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Fraxinus americana*, *Ulmus americana*, *Fraxinus quadrangulata*, and *Juniperus virginiana*. It also has been found in a dry, open situation with scattered *Juniperus virginiana*.

*Carex timida* is likely more frequent than currently known. It should be sought throughout western Ohio.

More research is needed to determine the ecological requirements for the species.

Selected References:


Ohio Natural Heritage Program
ODNR - Division of Natural Areas & Preserves
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Last updated: Jan/2008