

ELEOCHARIS PARVULA (R. & S.) Link
Least Spike-rush

FAMILY: Cyperaceae

HABIT: Densely tufted perennial, forming mats; culms 1-5 (7) cm tall; roots fibrous with minute tuberous stolons; flowering and fruiting July-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: It may be confused with other small spikerushes especially *Eleocharis acicularis*, but can be distinguished from *E. acicularis* by its prominent 3-angled achene.

TOTAL RANGE: Occurs at scattered inland stations w. of the Mississippi, s. to Mexico and the Caribbean.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): One post-1980 record from Lake County.

HABITAT: Open, early successional habitats; often in wet sand, occasionally in brackish soils.

HAZARDS: Overgrowth by woody species through succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good as it does occur in early successional habitats.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete specimens with underground parts and mature fruit.

COMMENTS: This species is very local inland from the coast. It is not likely that many populations occur in Ohio. Wet, sandy habitats along Lake Erie are the most promising places to search for this species. It was first collected in Ohio in 1992 from a man-made saltmarsh in Wayne County (Ungar et al., 1994). The Lake County population was found growing on recently exposed sandy flats bordering a pond in a county park.

Gleason and Cronquist (1991) recognize two varieties, the var. *anachaeta* (Torr.) Svenson is found west of the Mississippi; all Ohio specimens are var. *parvula*.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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Ungar, I.A., F.A. Bryan, J. Adams, and C.H. Keiffer. 1994. Eleocharis parvula (R. & S.) Link., a new species record for the flora of Ohio. Ohio J. Sci. 94(3):74.

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