

EQUISETUM VARIEGATUM Schleicher
Variegated Scouring-rush

FAMILY: Equisetaceae

HABIT: Stems uniform, evergreen, erect, 1-3 dm, branched near base; sporulates July-Sept.

SIMILAR SPECIES: The wide, white margins and broad central portion of sheath teeth give this species its variegated appearance.

TOTAL RANGE: Circumboreal; in North America s. to PA, IL, MN and CO.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Geauga, Lucas, Portage, and Summit Counties. Pre-1980 records are from Henry, Ottawa, and Stark Counties.

HABITAT: Wet thickets, bogs and sandy shores.

HAZARDS: Destruction of habitat by development; overgrowth by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete specimens; beware of hybrids.

COMMENTS: Ohio material can be referred to as var. *variegatum*. This species readily hybridizes with *E. hyemale* and *E. laevigatum*. Hybrids tend to obscure the distinctiveness of this species (Hauke 1965). The species should be sought mostly on the Lake Erie Lake Plain. Plants resembling *E. variegatum* reported from other regions of Ohio are often hybrids.

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