PIPTOCHAETIUM AVENACEUM
Black-seeded Needle Grass

FAMILY: Gramineae (Poaceae)

HABIT: Herbaceous cespitose perennial, 3-10 dm.; flowering April-June (rarely September).

SIMILAR SPECIES: The genus Piptochaetium is distinctive. Two species occur in Ohio, both of which are rare. Identification is based upon technical characters.

TOTAL RANGE: N. FL to e. TX, n. to MA, NY, MI, and WI.

STATE RANGE: LAWRENCE CO.: dry woods, 1/2 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, Elizabeth Twp., 2 May 1954, F. Bartley (OS); dry open woods, 1 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, 2 May 1954, F. Bartley (BHO, OS); dry woods, 2 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, 2 May 1954, F. Bartley (OS); dry open woods, 1 mi. E. of Lake Vesuvius, 29 May 1955, F. Bartley (BHO). Stuckey & Roberts (1982) indicate that this species was collected in Lawrence County in 1953 also, but no basis for this date is known.


HABITAT: Dry ground in woods, especially oak woods, and dry openings.

HAZARDS: When young, this is a palatable grass subject to grazing.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but presumed good due to the abundance of seemingly suitable habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material needed for identification. Collect the underground parts and note density of basal tufts.

COMMENTS: This grass may very well exist in many more locations in Ohio, as it occurs in all of the surrounding states. It is a conspicuous plant that is unlikely to be overlooked.

SELECTED REFERENCES:


Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

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