

SISYRINCHIUM MUCRONATUM Michx.
Narrow-leaved Blue-eyed-grass

FAMILY: Iridaceae

HABIT: Erect perennial herb to 4.5 dm.; flowering May, June; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Sisyrinchium mucronatum* is similar in general appearance to *Sisyrinchium albidum* and *Sisyrinchium montanum*, but can be distinguished by the following characters: *S. mucronatum* - spathe solitary and red-purple, outer bract margins united only a little above base; *S. albidum* - spathes two in one outer foliar bract and green; *S. montanum* - spathe solitary and green, outer bract margins united 2-6 mm. above base.

TOTAL RANGE: ME and w. MA to Ont. and B.C., s. to NC, OH, MI, and MN.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1960 specimens from 5 counties: Erie, Harrison, Jefferson, Ottawa, and Portage. There are pre-1960 specimens from Cuyahoga and Geauga counties.

STATE STATUS: 1980-1989: Threatened, 1990 to present: Endangered.

HABITAT: A variety of open, usually moist situations: fields, meadows, open woods, sandy places, moist calcareous flats, and open boggy thickets; also disturbed areas.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Presumed good due to its generalized habitat and tolerance of disturbance.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering or fruiting material is needed for positive identification. Note the color of the spathes and the connation of the outer bract-margins.

COMMENTS: This small, rather inconspicuous, and easily misidentified plant may be more frequent in the state than current records indicate. It should be sought throughout northern and eastern Ohio.

Longstanding taxonomic and nomenclatural difficulties with this genus are clarified by Ward (1968).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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