

CAREX LOUISIANICA Bailey
Louisiana Sedge

FAMILY: Cyperaceae.

HABIT: Loosely tufted perennial from an elongate, slender rootstalk, fertile culms mostly solitary, 2-7.5 dm.; fruiting June-August.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Very similar to other members of the section Lupulinae, especially *Carex intumescens* and *C. lupulina*, from which it can be separated only with difficulty. Careful examination of complete specimens, including underground parts, is necessary to determine these sedges accurately. Characters to be noted include leaf width, presence or absence of stolons, and size and shape of the inflorescence and the perigynia.

TOTAL RANGE: Mostly along the coastal plain; NJ to FL and TX, n. in the Mississippi valley to s. IN.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is a post-1980 record from Cuyahoga County. There is a pre-1980 record from Ashtabula County.

HABITAT: Swamp woods and shaded alluvial situations.

HAZARDS: Unknown, perhaps clearing of woods and stream channelization.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, possibly good due to the rhizomatous habit.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature specimens with underground parts.

COMMENTS: This sedge is easily overlooked and/or misidentified. It should be sought throughout the state. It well may be more frequent than the single collection might indicate. The area in Ashtabula County from which the only known collection was made has been searched for this species without success in recent years.

In other states, hybrids between this species and *C. intumescens* have been reported.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Gleason, H.A. and Cronquist, A. 1991. Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. The New York Botanical Garden, Bronx NY. 910 pp.

Mackenzie, K.K. 1940. North American Cariceae. N.Y. Bot. Gard., pl. 530.



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