
BRIEF NOTE***SCIRPUS SUBTERMINALIS* TORR.
(CYPERACEAE): A NEW STATE
RECORD¹**

Scirpus subterminalis Torr., a species of aquatic sedge previously unknown to Ohio, was observed and collected during the summer of 1975, from Mud Lake, Williams County, Ohio. Voucher specimens are on file in the Bowling Green State University Herbarium (Brodberg 754) and the State Herbarium at Ohio State University (Brodberg 427). The species was observed during an intensive investigation of the macrophyte communities and water chemistry of Mud Lake which is in Northwest Township, less than a mile north of U.S. Route 20, off State Route 49.

Although *Scirpus subterminalis* has not been previously reported from Ohio, its range extends throughout the Great Lakes Region (Fassett, 1957; Fernald, 1950). It has been reported from several counties in southern Michigan (Voss, 1972), so it is not surprising that its distribution should extend into the northwest corner of Ohio. It is not supposed that this discovery necessarily represents an expansion of *Scirpus subterminalis* into

Ohio, but rather that the species has been overlooked and is uncommon.

In the vegetative condition, *Scirpus subterminalis* is hard to recognize and is easily overlooked due to the grass-like appearance of its submerged basal leaves. The leaves are weak and thread-like, forming a rosette, out of which arises a single inflorescence (fig. 1B). Fertile culms bear a solitary spikelet subtended by a single involucral bract, which appears as a continuation of the stem (fig. 1C). The terete stems are weak, usually being supported by water (Fassett, 1957), and emerge only a few centimeters so that little other than the spikelet and bract are visible above the water's surface. At Mud Lake flowering or fruiting spikelets were observed from July to early November.

Mud Lake is situated in a kettle basin in the Wabash End Moraine of the Wisconsin glaciation (Goldthwait *et al.*, 1967). Following a current classification scheme from Moore and Bellamy (1974) Mud Lake would be classed a rheotrophic mire.² Surrounding the alkaline open water of the lake is a circumneutral peaty mat dominated primarily by *Carex aquatilis*, Wahl, although in the northwest

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²Mire is used as a collective term including both bog and fen systems while rheotrophic is used to stress the importance of mineral nutrients derived from flowing ground water in the ontogeny of similar mires.

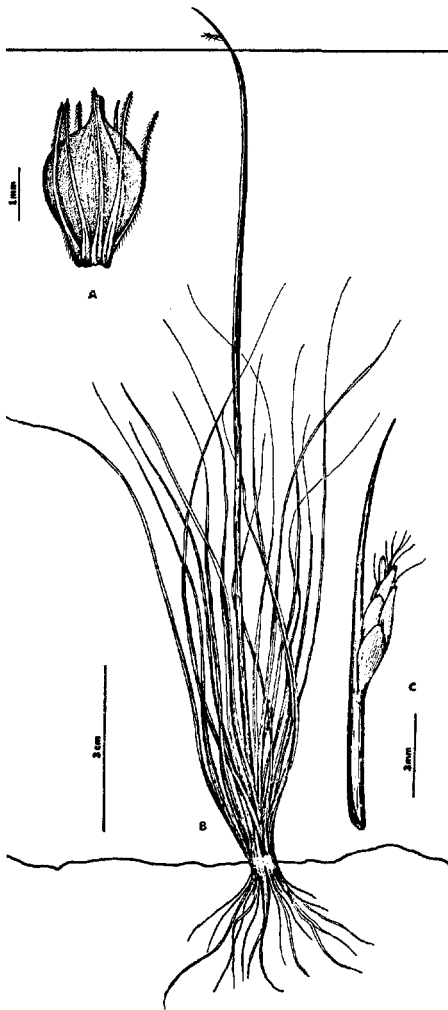


FIGURE 1. Details of *Scirpus subterminalis* Torr. (Brodberg 754, BGSU). A. Achene, B. Habitat and C. Single spikelet.

corner a localized quaking *Sphagnum* mat does occur in association with *Larix laricina* (DuRoi) K. Koch. *Scirpus subterminalis* was found to be present only on the western side of the lake on a peaty littoral shelf. This littoral shelf rings the open water, sloping gradually to a depth of about 2 m at which point the basin plunges more rapidly toward the center of the lake to a maximum depth of 8 m. Fertile culms were observed here in depths of 0.5 to 1 m, often on pieces of littoral lake bed which had broken loose and floated upward but had not reached the surface. At Mud Lake this species seems to be restricted to shallower quiet waters subject to the least wind action.—ROBERT K. BRODBERG AND T. RICHARD FISHER, *Department of Biological Sciences, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.*

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