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Scirpus polyphyllus (Cyperaceae) in New Hampshire

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NEW ENGLAND NOTE

SCIRPUS POLYPHYLLUS (CYPERACEAE) IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE

GORDON C. TUCKER

Scirpus polyphyllus Vahl is the only sedge of eastern North America with two-ranked leaves, a morphological feature that generally characterizes grasses rather than sedges (Tucker, 1987). Unlike S. atrovirens Willd. and S. hattorianus Makino, which are similar in having spikelets in glomerules, S. polyphyllus is never viviparous and it has curled bristles longer than the achenes.

During recent visits to NASC and NHA, I noted two specimens (both previously identified as "Scirpus atrovirens Willd.") that are in fact Scirpus polyphyllus, a new record for the flora of New Hampshire:

New Hampshire: Strafford Co.: Durham, Johnson Creek shore, 6 Oct. 1969, Hellquist, Haines & Hodgson 306 (NASC 8842); Sullivan Co.: Meriden, 1876, Dr. N. Barrows s.n. (NHA).

Scirpus polyphyllus, a widespread native of the eastern United States, was previously known to occur from Vermont, New York, Ohio (but not Ontario), and Illinois south to Georgia, Alabama, and Arkansas (Schuyler, 1967; Tucker, 1987). In New England it has been reported from Champlain Valley of Vermont (Zika, 1988), Massachusetts (Connecticut Valley), and Connecticut (Connecticut Valley and southwestern parts of the state) (Seymour, 1982). I have examined specimens from the herbaria listed below to confirm the range of Scirpus polyphyllus; in so doing, no other collections from New Hampshire were found.

On 10 September 1988, I visited Meriden, New Hampshire and spent a half-day attempting to re-locate Scirpus polyphyllus, assisted by J. Denison Tucker. Both S. atrovirens (4166, 4168, NYS) and S. hattorianus (4169, 4180, NYS) were plentiful along streams and in wet meadows bordering many of the town roads, but we were unable to find any S. polyphyllus.

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LITERATURE CITED


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