

NEW ENGLAND NOTE

SCIRPUS POLYPHYLLUS (CYPERACEAE) IN
NEW HAMPSHIRE¹

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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 & Hodgdon 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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