

NEW TO OKLAHOMA: ELEOCHARIS EQUISETOIDES (CYPERACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

This paper documents an occurrence of a vascular plant species previously unreported for the flora of Oklahoma. *Eleocharis equisetoides*, a perennial spikerush, was found along a lake margin in north-central Pushmataha County.

Eleocharis equisetoides (Elliott) Torr. (Cyperaceae, subg. *Limnochloa*; horsetail spikerush, jointed spikedge) is a perennial spikerush found in marshes, lakes, ponds, ditches, and streams (ITIS 2017; Smith et al. 2002). While the majority of the known populations are from coastal regions of the southeastern USA, *E. equisetoides* has also been reported as far north as Ontario (Kartesz 2014; USDA, NRCS 2017). In the USA its distribution includes Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin (Kartesz 2014; USDA, NRCS 2017). It is listed as critically imperiled, imperiled, or vulnerable in all but five of these states (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Texas), and is known only historically from three (Arkansas, Massachusetts, and Missouri; NatureServe 2012). The taxon is presumed extirpated from Illinois (NatureServe 2012).

The Oklahoma collection of *Eleocharis equisetoides* (figures 1 and 2) was found at the margin of a small lake in Pushmataha County in southeastern Oklahoma. Hundreds of stems were present both in flower and fruit. Associated species included *Eleocharis obtusa*, *Gratiola brevifolia*, *Hydrolea uniflora*, *Rhynchospora glomerata*, *Utricularia radiata*, and *Zizaniopsis milacea*. The nearest populations are all over 150 miles away in Saline Co. and Union Co., Arkansas, and Anderson Co., Texas (Kartesz 2014). The nearby Lake Ninih Waiya in northern Pushmataha County and areas of the McGee Creek Reservoir in eastern Atoka County were also searched, but no additional populations of *E. equisetoides* were located. A single collection of the closely related *E. interstincta* is known from Grady Co., Oklahoma, but this is the first report of *E. equisetoides* from the state (OVPD 2017; Roalson et al. 2010; Roalson and Friar 2000).

Eleocharis equisetoides (Elliott) Torr.

Voucher specimen. **USA. Oklahoma.** Pushmataha Co.: SE of Clayton, Oklahoma, at Clayton Lake State Park, N34.54027° W95.30764°, T1N R19E Sec. 21, 19 Jul 2017, *Buthod and Hoagland AB-11596* (OKL).



Figure 1. *Eleocharis equisetoides*, natural habitat in Pushmataha Co., Oklahoma.



Figure 2. *Eleocharis equisetoides*, Buthod & Hoagland AB11596.

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