



CASTANEA

The Journal
of the
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society

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Received December 23, 2002; Accepted September 17, 2003.

VIRGINIA

Carex davisii Schweinitz and Torrey (CYPERACEAE)—**Fairfax County**: Potomac River Gorge, Great Falls Park, Patowmack Canal, lock one, along eastern berm of Matidaville Trail, 15 May 2003, Steury 030515.1 {CM, DOV, GMUF, Great Falls Park Herbarium, Maryland Department of Natural Resources Herbarium (TAWES), MICH, US}.

Significance. This is the first record for Virginia (Flora of North America Editorial Committee 2002, Harvill et al. 1992, Kartesz and Meacham 1999, Lea and Frye 2002). *Carex davisii* (Davis' sedge) is listed as extirpated in Maryland and West Virginia (Maryland Department of Natural Resources 2001, West Virginia Natural Heritage Program 2000), however the species was recently rediscovered in Frederick County, Maryland, about 40 km upstream from the Potomac Gorge (Lea and Frye 2002).

Davis' sedge is native to eastern North America, ranging from Quebec, Canada, west to North Dakota, and south to Texas and Tennessee, where it is listed as "rare" (Kartesz and Meacham 1999). Typically it is found on calcareous soils (Strausbaugh and Core 1977) in dry to moist fields or woods (Brown and Brown 1984). At Great Falls Park this sedge occurred at a sunny ecotone of deciduous woods and the berm of an earthen road along the historic Patowmack Canal (constructed between 1785 and 1802). The main population consisted of seven patches over a maximum area measuring 78.0 m × 4.6 m, with disjunct, single tufts occurring north and south of the main population. The largest contiguous patch measured 15.2 m × 2.4 m with hundreds of culms in fruit on 15 May 2003.

Associated species in the genus *Carex* at this site, in order of greatest to least abundance included, *Carex conjuncta* F. Boott, *Carex amphibola* Steudel, *Carex grisea* Wahlenberg, *Carex jamesii* Schweinitz, *Carex leavenworthii* Dewey, *Carex albursina* Sheldon, and *Carex shortiana* Dewey. *Carex conjuncta* and *Carex shortiana* are ranked as rare to uncommon (S3) in Virginia (Townsend 2002). *Carex jamesii* and *Carex albursina* are calciphiles (Gleason and Cronquist 1991), indicating a circumneutral pH of the soils at this site. Common woody associates included *Ulmus americana* L., *Fraxinus americana* L., *Quercus rubra* L., *Acer negundo* L., *Cercis canadensis* L., and *Ptelea trifoliata* L. The dominant, native, non-*Carex*, herbaceous species was *Verbesina alternifolia* (L.) Britton. Non-native associates included *Lonicera japonica* Thunb., *Microstegium vimineum* (Trin.) A. Camus, and *Lamium amplexicaule* L.—BRENT W. STEURY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY, TURKEY RUN PARK, McLEAN, VIRGINIA 22101. email address: brent_steury@nps.gov

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Received June 20, 2003; Accepted September 8, 2003.