

"The Illustrated Flora of Illinois is a major contribution to our understanding of the plant life of the state in that it provides keys, descriptions, and illustrations of *Carex*, a taxonomically difficult group. Beginning in 1967, Robert Mohlenbrock has provided a consistent high-quality product in this series. The author's knowledge of sedges is superb. . . . The illustrations are exceptionally well drawn and uniform throughout the text. The consistent illustration of the critical features of each species (i.e., habit, pistillate scale, perigynium, and achene) makes comparison and identification of species very easy. This is very important in a group such as the sedges in which species determinations are based on minute characteristics not easily described."

—Richard Wunderlin, author of *Guide to the Vascular Flora of Central Florida*

Sedges: Carex is the fourteenth volume of the Illustrated Flora of Illinois series and the sixth and last volume devoted to monocots—plants that have a single seed leaf, or cotyledon, upon germination.

Since the volume's original publication in 1999, thirty-four additional species of plants have been recognized in Illinois. Some are discoveries from recent field work, some are from more thorough searches of herbaria, and others are from different taxonomic philosophies.

For each species of *Carex* in Illinois, there is a full illustration showing the habit of the plant and close-ups of various vegetative and reproductive structures that are crucial for the identification of the individual species. There is also a complete description of each species as well as a detailed discussion of the nomenclature and habitats. Range maps show the county distribution of each species in Illinois. A new and detailed key is provided for identification of the species.

Robert H. Mohlenbrock taught botany and plant taxonomy at Southern Illinois University for thirty-four years. His research has resulted in more than sixty books and more than five hundred other publications. Since 1984 he has written "This Land," a monthly column for *Natural History*. Now in his sixty-fourth year of plant study, Mohlenbrock is a senior scientist for Biotic Consultants, where he teaches weeklong wetland plant identification classes for government employees and consultants throughout the country.

SIU SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY PRESS
CARBONDALE

WWW.SIUPRESS.COM

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 978-0-8093-3550-3



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