

***Muhlenbergia cuspidata* (Torr. ex Hook.) Rydbg.**

**Current status: TU**

**Proposed status: DL**

**Submitted by: Tim Block and Ann Rhoads, Morris Arboretum, March 2010**

**Habitat:** dry gravelly prairies and limestone outcrops

**Range:** *Muhlenbergia cuspidata* is a mid-western prairie species; the main range extends from Missouri and Kansas northwest to Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The closest occurrences to PA are scattered sites in southwestern OH.

**Description:** Caespitose, perennial grass with upright culms.

**Pennsylvania Status:** Known from 2 collections at a single site in Northampton Co. in 1946 and 1952.

**Identification Problems:** It is most similar to *M. schreberi* from which it is distinguished on the basis of longer glumes (1.7-2.8 mm for *M. cuspidata*; 0.1-0.3 mm for *M. schreberi*).

**Status in Other States:** S1 in IN, OH, TN, and Ontario; S2 in IL, KY, VA; PX in MI

**Global Status:** G4

**Rationale for Change:** Although some mid-western prairie species are legitimate members of the PA flora (*Andropogon gerardii*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Bouteloua curtipendula*, *Sporobolus heterolepis*, etc.) in this case the single PA site appears to be an accidental occurrence that probably has not persisted. We recommend delisting.

**Sources/References:**

Flora of North America Editorial Committee. 2003. *Flora of North America North of Mexico, Volume 25*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY.

Morris Arboretum Herbarium (MOAR)

NatureServe, <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>, accessed 3/2/2010.

Pennsylvania Flora Database, [www.paflora.org](http://www.paflora.org), accessed 3/2/2010.

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Rhoads, Ann Fowler and Timothy A. Block. 2007. *The Plants of Pennsylvania, An Illustrated Manual*, second edition. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA.

