

Scheuchzeriaceae

A monotypic family, the single species is a plant of peatlands. The stems are simple, sheathed basally by the remains of old leaves. Flowers are borne on racemes extending above the leafy stem. The leaves are round in cross-section and not differentiated into blades. Petals and sepals each are three-merous.

Scheuchzeria L.

Typically the inflorescence has persistent petals and sepals that are widely divergent. The carpels are connate proximally, forming inflated follicles.

Scheuchzeria palustris L.

Pod-grass; scheuchzérie des marais



Photo by David Mazerolle

An erect plant, it may reach 30cm in height. The round leaves are 1–3mm wide, with enlarged pubescent sheaths at the base. Plants are generally glabrous, but for the leaf sheaths. Flowers have three or six pistils, borne in a short terminal raceme. Follicles formed 2–3, each 5–7mm long and stramineous.

Flowers early in May through July.

Peat substrates in bogs and along lakeshores, where shrub cover is absent.

Ranges from Yarmouth to Cape Breton. Locally abundant.

Found from NF to AK, south to CA, WY and VA; NM. Eurasia.



Photo by Martin Thomas



Photo by Sean Blaney