



Aquatic
Eleocharis
Taxa

Eleocharis

Spike wider than stem



Not covered in this key, see Godfrey & Wooten key

Stems slender (< 3 mm wide) and weakly erect, <30 floral scales



Stems not triangular or spongy, rhizomes red, floral scales with dark band



E. elongata

Stems triangular and spongy, rhizomes not red, no dark band on floral scales



E. robbinsii



E. robbinsii (left) and E. elongata (right)

Spike not wider than stem



Stems robust (> 3 mm wide) and upright, >30 floral scales



Nodose-septate divisions not visible



E. cellulosa

Nodose-septate divisions visible



E. Confervoides (Websteria confervoides)

Stems wiry, submersed, sprouting at tips; Spikes not visible

Stems sprouting like puffballs from long slender stalks



Stems not sprouting on long slender stalks



Submersed viviparous Eleocharis

Achene 1.8-2.2 mm long, bristles longer than achene, tubercle $\frac{3}{4}$ length of achene



E. interstincta



E. equisitoides

Achene 2-2.5mm, bristles short and weak, tubercle $\frac{1}{2}$ length of achene



E. robbinsii photo from <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/>, achene photos by Joshua Campbell, other photos from DEP.



Indicates that a hand lens is useful for this step.