

Eleocharis parishii Britt., PARISH'S SPIKE-RUSH. Perennial herb, emergent aquatic, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, mat-forming with erect individuals, in range 12–35 cm tall; shoots typically with 2(–3) bladeless leaf sheaths, glabrous, glaucous; rhizomes horizontal, 1.2–2.2 mm diameter, orange to brownish orange or reddish brown. **Stems:** elliptic in \times -section, 0.5–1 mm wide, green, wiry, glabrous, sometimes developing a narrow, flattened face. **Leaves:** alternate, with sheath (bladeless, cataphylls); sheath closed, the lowest leaf sheath membranous, 15–25 mm long, oblique or truncate and sometimes small-toothed at tip, tinged purplish red and aging darker, 5-veined; upper leaf sheath green, truncate to oblique and toothed at tip, often with crimson spots or entirely dark purplish red at tip, the tooth 0.2–0.3 mm long. **Inflorescence:** spikelike (“spikelet”), terminal, linear-lanceolate, 10–15 \times 1.1–1.5 mm, acuminate at tip, 20–40-flowered, the flowers helically arranged with a bractlet (“scale”) subtending each flower (sometimes the lowest bractlet sterile); peduncle = stem; bractlet appressed, ovate and cupping flower, 2.5–3 mm long, rounded on back (lower bractlets) and keeled on back (upper bractlets), greenish with membranous margins above midpoint, inward of membranous margins dark purplish red aging pale brownish, rounded or short-pointed at tip, persistent and drying brown. **Flower:** bisexual, \pm radial, mostly concealed by bractlet; **perianth** = 6–7 ascending bristles, unequal, 1.2–2.5 mm long, translucent-white, wavy, with backward-pointing barbs, persistent during fruit development and typically $>$ fruit; **stamens** 3, free, exerted from bractlet; filaments slender, 1.5–2.5 mm long, whitish; anthers basifixed, dithecal, 1.1–1.7 mm long with short appendage at tip, yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** 1, 2.5–3.5 mm long; ovary superior, obovoid and \pm triangular in \times -section or with 1 flat face and 1 convex face (planoconvex), green, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style ascending with tips exerted from bractlets, at base swollen to form a tubercle, the tubercle 3-angled and \pm conic, 0.3–0.5 \times $<$ 0.3 mm and constricted at base, 3-branched \pm 0.5 mm above tubercle base, the branches 1–1.7 mm long, translucent, papillate along entire length. **Fruit:** achene with the persistent style tubercle, 1-seeded, fruit body obovoid, 0.8–1.1 \times 0.6–0.7 mm, 2-sided (flat + convex) with 2 longitudinal ridges or 3-sided with 3 ridges and 1 face broader than others, shiny yellowish to light yellow-brown and sometimes with dark purplish red mottling, smooth; tubercle \pm 0.3 mm long, with 3–5 longitudinal ribs, acute to acuminate at tip, surface with domed cells. Mid-August–early October.

Native. Perennial herb found in several location in shallow water or wet mud. *Eleocharis parishii* is very similar to the highly variable *E. montevidensis*, which probably has not been validly collected yet in range. Parish's spike-rush is best distinguished by having bristles that are longer than the tubercle of the fruit and having a smooth immature fruit body, and the side next to the rachis typically is flattish. Most features of the two species overlap, and cannot be used reliably to recognize *E. parishii*, although it has a narrower inflorescence and the bractlets (scales) of the lower flowers are not horizontally wrinkled, nor are they noticeably recurved.

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