



Dense stand of American Bur-Reed in a beaver-formed marsh by Panther Creek, Stewart County, Tennessee (LBL).

AMERICAN BUR-REED

Sparganium americanum Nutt.

Extensive stands of this Bur-Reed grow in shallow water of some marshes, especially those of recent origin, such as the Panther Creek beaver-formed complex. Plants are two-three feet high and stems are leafy with elongated ribbon-like leaves. Flowering heads contain either staminate or pistillate flowers. The pistillate heads become conspicuous and bur-like in fruit; burs are up to an inch in diameter and are present from summer until the tops of the perennial plants die back. *Sparganium* is the only genus in the family and includes a few species in temperate-cold regions of both hemispheres. The name is from *sparganon*, a Greek word meaning swaddling-band in reference to the long strap-like leaves (**Sparganiaceae**, the Bur-Reed Family).

Fruiting heads of American Bur-Reed.

