

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX CONCINNA
BEAUTIFUL SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

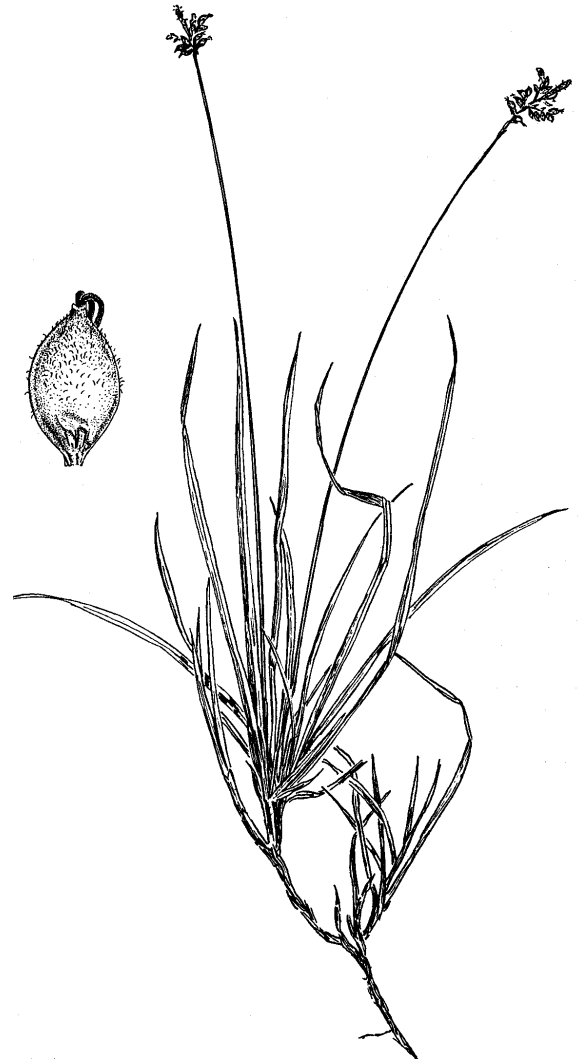
Global: G4G5 State: S1

WYNDD Plant List: peripheral (low conservation priority)

Description: Beautiful sedge is a slender, low-growing graminoid with stems 5-15 cm tall arising singly or a few together from a creeping rhizome. Leaves are mostly clustered near the base, 1-3 mm wide, and shorter than (occasionally nearly equal to) the stems. The terminal spike contains staminate (male) flowers only and is 3-7 mm long. The 2 or 3 pistillate (female) spikes are clustered just below the terminal spike and are each 4-8 mm long. Scales below the perigynia are distinctly shorter than the perigynia. The perigynia are 2-3.5 mm long, plump, covered with short hairs, and abruptly contracted to a very short (0.5 mm) beak. Three stigmas protrude beyond the beak (Hitchcock et al 1969, Dorn 1992).

Similar Species: *Carex aurea* has leaves well up on the stem, and glabrous perigynia with two stigmas. *C. brunnescens* has both male and female flowers in the same spikes, and glabrous perigynia, each with a prominent beak. *C. capillaris* has widely-spaced spikes and glabrous perigynia which are conspicuously flattened on one side.

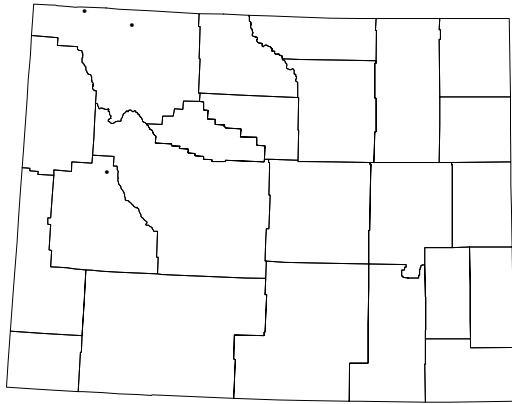
Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.



Above: *C. concinna* from Hermann (1970).

Distribution: Alaska and the Yukon Territory to Newfoundland, south to Oregon, Colorado, South Dakota and Michigan. In Wyoming it is known from the Absaroka and Wind River ranges and Yellowstone Plateau in Park and Sublette counties.

Habitat: Forested areas in mountains (Hitchcock et al. 1969). In Wyoming, populations occur on mossy, well-drained



Wyoming distribution of *Carex concinna*.

soils in Engelmann spruce and White spruce forests by small streams at 6600-8000 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Two extant populations are known in Wyoming. One additional historical population (last observed in 1885) is known from Yellowstone National Park.

Abundance: Known populations typically contain fewer than 20 plants and cover small areas.

Trends: Trend data are lacking.

Protection Status: Populations are protected in the Swamp Lake Special Botanical Area, Bridger Wilderness, and Yellowstone National Park.

Threats: Trampling by humans and pack animals (as well as animal grazing) may be a threat to the Wind River Range population. Grazing by horses is a potential threat at Swamp Lake.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests and Yellowstone National Park.

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