

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX EMORYI
EMORY'S SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.

Agency Status: None

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1

Range Context: Widespread/Edge

Wyoming Contribution Rank: Low

Description: Emory's sedge is a rhizomatous graminoid with smooth to roughly triangular stems (culms) 3-11.5 dm high. Leaves are 3-6 mm wide with basal sheaths red-brown and convex apices. Ligules are truncate or broadly rounded. Uppermost spikes are staminate, and lower spikes are pistillate, 2.5-10 cm long. Pistillate scales dark, outer margins that no wider than the light central band. Perigynia are ellipsoid, finely 3-5 nerved on each face, and 1.7-3.2 x 1-2.1 mm. The perigynia beak is 0.1-0.3 mm long. Achenes are lens-shaped with 2 stigmas (Ball and Reznicek 2002; Hermann 1970).

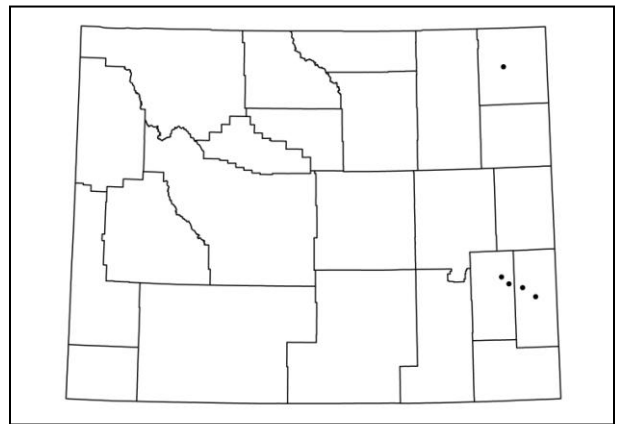
Similar Species: *Carex aquatilis* has dark perigynia scales except for a narrow, light midrib, and the leaf ligule forms an elongate, acute triangle. *Carex lenticularis* has a bract at the base of the inflorescence that is longer than the inflorescence (usually at least 1.5 times as long). *Carex stricta* has little or no perigynia beak (Dorn 2001; Ball and Reznicek 2002).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: May-June.



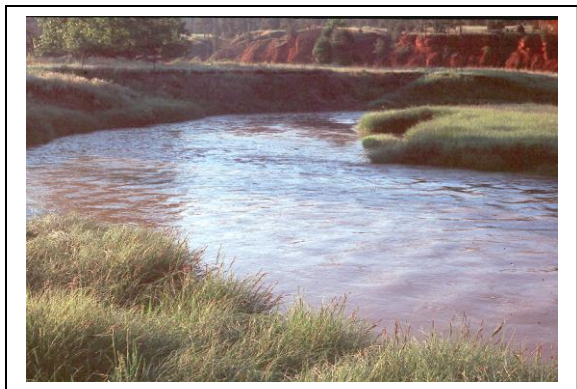
Above: *Carex emoryi*, by B. Heidel

Distribution: Manitoba south to Colorado and Texas, east to New York and Virginia. In Wyoming it is known from the Black Hills and Goshen Hole, on the Belle Fourche and North Platte Rivers, in Crook, Goshen, and Platte counties.



Above: Wyoming distribution of *Carex emoryi*

Habitat: Wet meadow zone along open or partially shaded shores of perennial rivers. In moist to wet alluvial loams at 3850-4320 feet.



Above: *Carex emoryi* habitat, by B. Heidel

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 5 recent records (all observed since 1996, most recently in 2008).

Abundance: The occurrence has many 1000's of individuals at Devils Tower National Monument and at least 100's at Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

Trends: Stable at present but with historic declines. Persists at one reservoir but likely to have lost habitat elsewhere.

Protection status: Two occurrences are protected in Devils Tower National Monument and Fort Laramie National Historic Site. All other occurrences are from state or federal lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: May be threatened by altered river flows, impoundment or lowering of water table, grazing, trampling, and invasion of exotic species.

Managed Areas: Known from lands managed by the Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Devils Tower National Monument, Camp Guernsey Training Area and Rawhide Wildlife Management Area.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 2001. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, third edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Ball, P.W. and A.A. Reznicek. 2002. *Carex*. In: *Flora of North America north of Mexico*. 26+ volumes. Oxford University Press, New York and Oxford. Vol. 23, pp. 254-572.

Great Plains Flora Association. 1986. *Flora of the Great Plains*. Univ. Kansas Press, Lawrence, KS.

Heidel, B. 2004. Floristic inventory of Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Prepared for the Northern Great Plains Inventory Program and Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Heidel, B. 2008. Survey for special plant species of concern in Devils Tower National Monument. Prepared for the National Park Service. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Hermann, F.J. 1970. Manual of the Carices of the Rocky Mountains and Colorado Basin. Agriculture Handbook 374: 1-397. USDA Forest Service, Washington DC.

Marriott, H. 1982. Devils Tower National Monument Plant Checklist. Unpublished list prepared for the Devils Tower Natural History Association, 1980-1982.

Author: Joy Handley and Bonnie Heidel
2008-12-10