

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX LUZULINA VAR.
ATROPURPUREA
BLACK AND PURPLE SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None

Agency Status: USFS R4: Sensitive.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5T3 State: S2

WYNDD Plant List: Regional endemic
(Medium conservation priority)

Description: Black and purple sedge is a tufted perennial with stems (culms) 15-60 cm high. The leaves are crowded near the base, shorter than the culms, flat, and 2-4 mm wide. The uppermost spike has all staminate flowers or staminate flowers located above the pistillate and is mostly 1-2 cm long. Lower spikes number 3-5 and are entirely pistillate, 1-3 cm long, and borne on erect stalks. The pistillate scales are blackish to brownish-purple and pointed at the tip. Perigynia are hairy, lanceolate, mostly 3-5 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide, distinctly compressed, and have 2 prominent marginal nerves. Achenes are three-sided with 3 stigmas (Hitchcock et al. 1969; Dorn 1992; Fertig et al. 1991; Fertig et al. 1994).

Similar Species: *Carex luzulina* var. *ablata* has wider leaf blades and round-tipped, greenish, straw-colored, or reddish-brown pistillate flower scales. *C. misandra* has drooping spikes on slender stalks, and pistillate flowers located above the staminate ones. *C. atrata* has hairless perigynia (Fertig et al. 1994).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: Flowering and fruiting July-August.

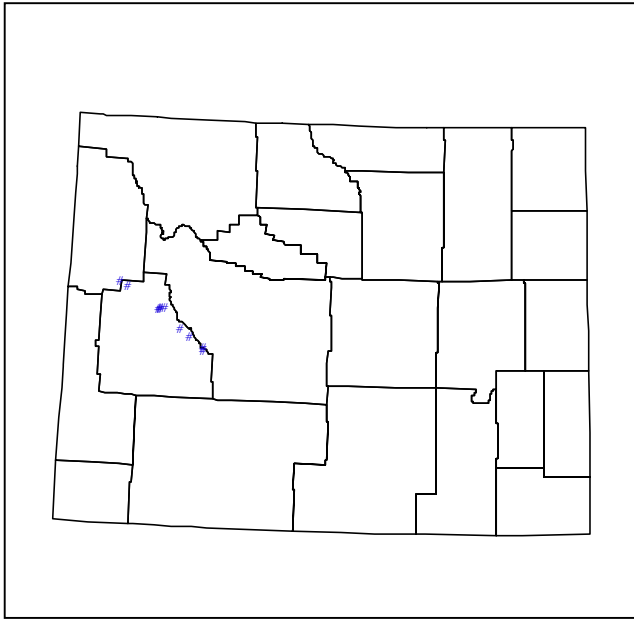


Above: *Carex luzulina* var. *atropurpurea* by Kaye Thorne from Fertig et al. (1994).

Distribution: Regional endemic of eastern Idaho, southwestern Montana, and western Wyoming. In Wyoming it is known only from the Wind River and Gros Ventre ranges in Fremont, Sublette, and Teton counties.

Habitat: Subalpine moist rocky sedge or willow-dominated meadows along creek banks and ponds at 10000-10600 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 10 occurrences in Wyoming, 6 of which have been discovered since 1990.



Wyoming distribution of *Carex luzulina* var. *atropurpurea*.

Abundance: Size of individual populations is unknown.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known occurrences are found in designated Wilderness areas (Bridger, Gros Ventre, and Popo Agie).

Threats: Potential threats include grazing (most likely by sheep) and habitat disturbance.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Bridger-Teton and Shoshone National Forests.

References:

Dorn, R.D. 1988. Vascular Plants of Wyoming. Mountain West Publ., Cheyenne.

Fertig, W. 1992. Checklist of the Vascular plant flora of the west slope of the Wind River Range and status report on the sensitive plant species of Bridger-Teton National Forest. Unpublished report prepared for the

Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming.

Fertig, W. 1992. A floristic survey of the west slope of the Wind River Range, Wyoming. Unpublished Master's Thesis, University of Wyoming, Department of Botany.

Fertig, W. 1998. The status of rare plants on Shoshone National Forest: 1995-97 survey results. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Fertig, W., R.L. Hartman, and B.E. Nelson. 1991. General floristic survey of the west slope of the Wind River Range, Bridger-Teton National Forest, 1990. Report prepared for Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming, Laramie.

Fertig, W., C. Refsdal, and J. Whipple. 1994. Wyoming Rare Plant Field Guide. Wyoming Rare Plant Technical Committee, Cheyenne Wyoming.

Hartman, R.L. 1995. General floristic/sensitive plant species survey of the Gros Ventre Range, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for Bridger-Teton National Forest by the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, University of Wyoming.

Heidel, B. 1996. Noteworthy Collections - Montana. Madrono 43: 436-440.

Mills, S. and W. Fertig. 1996. Field guide to rare and Sensitive plants of the Shoshone National Forest. Report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Scott, R.W. 1997. The Alpine Flora of the Rocky Mountains. Volume 1 The Middle

Rockies. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, UT.

Welp, L., W.F. Fertig, G.P. Jones, G.P. Beauvais, and S.M. Ogle. 2000. Fine filter analysis of the Bighorn, Medicine Bow, and Shoshone National Forests in Wyoming. Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Stephanie Mills and Walter Fertig

Updated: 00-06-15