

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

CAREX MISANDRA
SHORT-LEAF SEDGE
Family: Cyperaceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.
Agency Status: None.

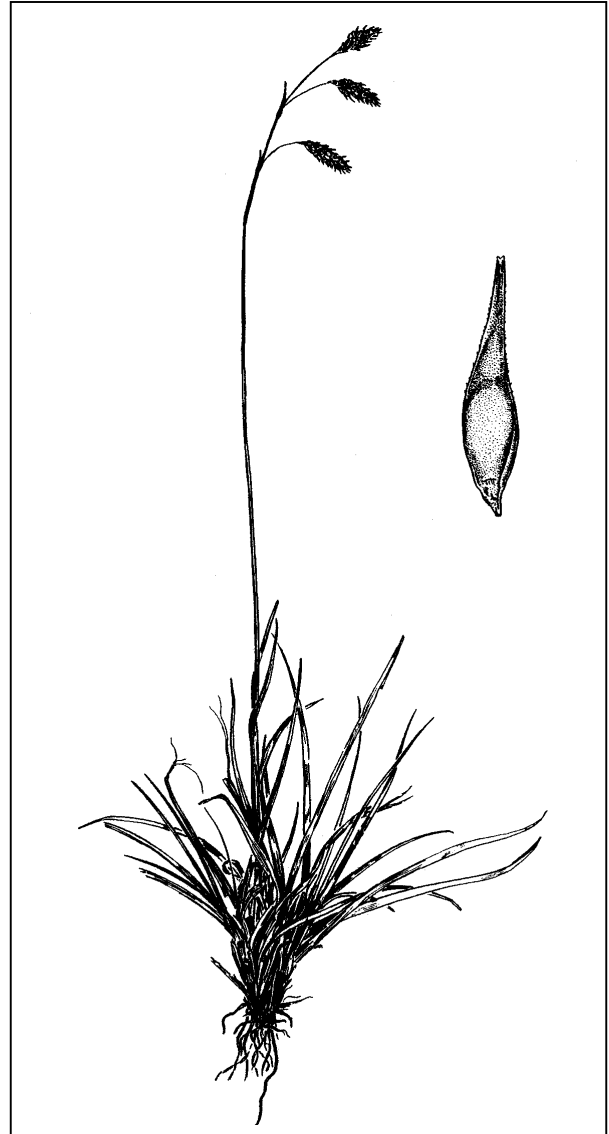
Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral (Low
Conservation Priority)

Description: Short-leaf sedge is a densely clustered, non-rhizomatous perennial graminoid with slender, erect to nodding culms 5-25 cm tall. The yellowish-green leaves are clustered near the base and are much shorter than the culm with flat to slightly channeled thick blades 1-3 mm wide and 4-10 cm long. The inflorescence consists of 2-4 nodding spikes 1-1.5 cm long on slender stalks above a long flowering bract with a well-developed blade and sheath. The terminal spike contains pistillate flowers located above the staminate flowers, while the lateral spikes are all pistillate. Perigynia are lance-shaped, 3.3-5 mm long, purplish black on the upper half and greenish below, and tapered into a flattened, bi-toothed beak with finely serrated (hair-like) margins. Pistillate scales are shorter and wider than the perigynia and are dark brown to purplish with pale, membranous margins and often a pale midrib. Achenes are 3-sided with 3 stigmas (Cronquist et al. 1977; Dorn 1992; Hitchcock et al. 1969; Scott 1997).

Synonyms: *Carex fuliginosa* var. *misandra*.

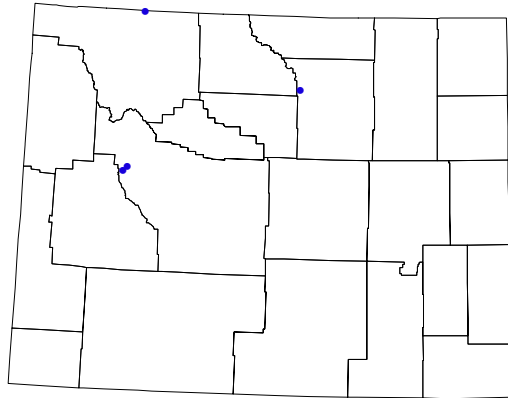
Similar Species: *Carex capillaris* has smooth-margined perigynia 2.4-3.3 mm long with a short beak and light brown or greenish



Above: *Carex misandra* from Hermann (1970).

deciduous scales, and terminal spikes typically with all staminate flowers. *Carex luzulina* var. *atropurpurea* has erect spikes with the terminal spike staminate and leaves 2-9 mm wide.

Flowering/Fruiting Period: July-August.



Wyoming distribution of *C. misandra*.

Distribution: Circumboreal; in North America from Alaska to Greenland south to Quebec and Alberta, with disjunct populations in Montana, northwest Wyoming, Colorado, and Utah. In Wyoming, known from the Beartooth, Bighorn, and Wind River ranges in Fremont, Johnson, and Park counties.

Habitat: Wet meadows, streambanks, willow thickets, and stony or turfy places in the alpine and upper subalpine zones at elevations between 950-11240 feet.

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 occurrences in Wyoming, all of which have been observed since 1985 (most recently observed in 1999).

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Unknown.

Protection status: Two occurrences are found in the Fitzpatrick Wilderness Area (including one population within the potential Arrow Mountain RNA). The Beartooth population is found in the proposed Line Creek RNA. The

Bighorn Range occurrence is within the potential McLain Lakes Research Natural Area.

Threats: May be vulnerable to high grazing pressure.

Managed Areas: Occurs on Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests.

References:

Cronquist, A., A.H. Holmgren, N.H. Holmgren, J.L. Reveal, and P.K. Holmgren. Volume 6, The Monocotyledons. Intermountain Flora: Vascular Plants of the Intermountain West, USA. Columbia University Press, New York.

Dorn, R.D. 1977. Manual of the Vascular Plants of Wyoming. 2 volumes. Garland Publ., INC., New York, NY.

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

Dorn, R.D. 1992. Vascular Plants of Wyoming, second edition. Mountain West Publishing, Cheyenne, WY.

Fertig, W. 1999. The status of rare plants in the Bighorn Landscape. Report prepared for The Nature Conservancy Wyoming Field Office by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, Wyoming.

Fertig, W. and M. Bynum. 1994. Biological report on the Proposed Twin Lakes Research Natural Area. Unpublished report prepared for Shoshone National Forest by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, Wyoming.

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.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, and M. Owenbey. 1969. Pt. 1. Vascular Cryptogams, Gymnosperms, and Monocotyledons, IN: Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Owenbey, and J.W. Thompson (eds). Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest. University of Washington Publications in Biology 17(1): 1-914.

Hulten, E. 1968. Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories. Stanford University Press. Palo Alto, CA.

Hurd, E.G., N.L. Shaw, J. Mastrogiuseppe, L.C. Smithman, and S. Goodrich. 1998. Field Guide to Intermountain Sedges. Rocky Mountain Research Station General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-10.

Johnson, P.L. 1962. The occurrence of new arctic-alpine species in the Beartooth Mountains, Wyoming-Montana. Madrono 16(7): 229-233.

Jones, G.P. and W. Fertig. 1999. Ecological evaluation of the potential Arrow Mountain Research Natural Area within the Shoshone National Forest, Fremont County, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared for the Shoshone National Forest, USDA Forest Service by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming.

Lesica, P. & J. S. Shelly. 1991. Sensitive, Threatened and Endangered Vascular Plants of Montana. Montana Natural Heritage Program, Occ. Publ. No. 1. Helena, MT.

Porsild, A.E. and W.J. Cody. 1980. Vascular Plants of Continental Northwest Territories, Canada. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa.

Porter, C.L. 1965. A Flora of Wyoming: Part IV. Bulletin 434:1-88. Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Wyoming.

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. Fertig, and G. Jones. 1998. Ecological Evaluation of the Potential McLain Lake Research Natural Area Within the Bighorn National Forest, Big Horn and Johnson Counties, Wyoming. Unpublished report prepared by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, Laramie, WY.

Author: Walter Fertig

Updated: 00-11-25