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 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:**


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