

-State Species Abstract-
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

SCHOENOPLECTUS HETEROCHAETUS
[*SCIRPUS HETEROCHAETUS*]
SLENDER BULRUSH
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: Slender bulrush is a perennial, rhizomatous graminoid with erect, round, green culms 1-2.3 m tall. Leaves are few, often bladeless and restricted to the base of the culm. The inflorescence is a loosely spreading panicle and is subtended by a single bract that appears like an extension of the culm. Each spikelet is borne on an individual pedicel. Spikelets are up to 17 mm long, 3-4.5 mm wide, and cylindrical to ovoid. Flowering scales are tawny with reddish spots and streaks, up to 5.2 mm long and 2.3 mm wide, and are rounded at the tip with a short awn. Fruits are 3-sided, wedge-shaped achenes 3.2 mm long and 2 mm wide with a beak to 1 mm long and surrounded by 2-4 barbed bristles. Stigmas 3 (Dorn 1992; Great Plains Flora Association 1986; Gleason and Cronquist 1991).

Synonyms: *Scirpus heterochaetus*

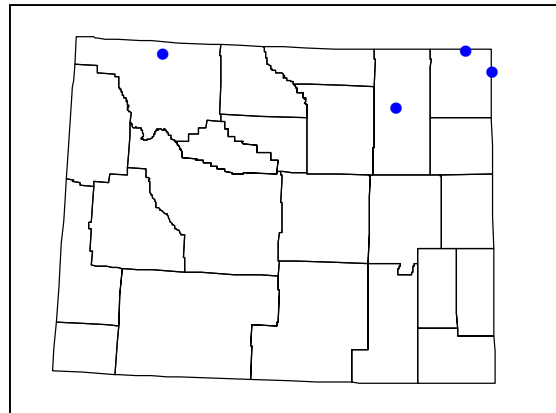
Identification Comments: Inflorescence with a single, terminal bract (appearing like an extension of the stem) and individually pedicelled spikelets with 3-sided achenes is diagnostic.

Similar Species: *Scirpus validus* and *S. acutus* have an inflorescence with a mix of individually pedicelled and sessile spikelets and flowers with 2 stigmas and 2-sided achenes. *S. maritimus*, *S. microcarpus*, and *S. atrocinctus* have 2 or more elongate, leaf-like bracts at the base of the inflorescence (Dorn 1992).

Flowering/Fruiting Period: June-August.
Reproduces vegetatively and by seed.

Distribution: Occurs from Quebec and Massachusetts west to Washington and Oregon, south to Texas, Missouri, Kentucky, and New York. In Wyoming, known from the northern Great Plains and Black Hills in Campbell, Crook, and Sheridan counties.

Habitat: Found along the margins of freshwater sloughs, marshes, ponds, and roadside ditches (Gleason and Cronquist 1991). Wyoming populations are found in and along the banks of small prairie and farm ponds on sandy clay soils.



Wyoming distribution of *Schoenoplectus heterochaetus*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from 4 extant occurrences in Wyoming, all observed from 1973-1983.

Abundance: Population size is not known across the state, but one population located in 1973 was reported as "abundant".

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: All known populations are from state or private lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Threats not known, but some populations could be impacted by loss of wetlands.

Managed Areas: All known populations are on state or private lands.

References:

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