

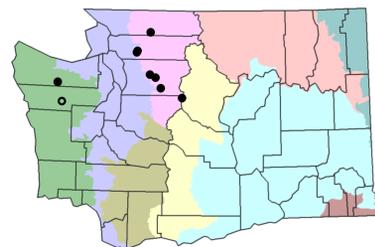
Carex stylosa C.A. Mey.

long-styled sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1S2



General Description: Densely matted sedge with stout rhizomes. Stems 15-50 cm, with red or purple fibrous bases. Leaves crowded near the base, generally shorter than the flowering stems, nearly flat, 2-4 mm wide.

Floral Characteristics: Spikes 8-20 x 4.5-8 mm, lower ones with long peduncles. Terminal spike usually entirely male, or sometimes with both female and male flowers. Lateral spikes (1) 2-3 (4), female. Female scales brown with translucent margins, lanceolate, shorter and narrower than the perigynia, with a prominent midvein. Perigynia papillose, veinless, yellowish green or golden, becoming brown, spreading, 2.5-3.5 x 1.5-1.75 mm. Beak abrupt, smooth, short, 0.2-0.3 mm. Stigmas 3. Styles 3, conspicuously protruding, persistent in early maturity and eventually deciduous. Flowers June to September.

Fruits: Achenes 3-angled, nearly filling the body of the perigynium.

Identification Tips: *C. raynoldsii* is distinguished by its wider leaves (3-7 mm wide), smooth perigynia, and nearly smooth flowering stems. Other similar sedges have terminal gynaeandrous spikes. The terminal spike of *C. stylosa* is usually male; when female flowers are present, they are not wholly above or below the male flowers.

Range: The Russian Far East, Greenland, Labrador, Quebec, Newfoundland, the Yukon, B.C., AK, and WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Ponds, bogs, fens, shallow marshes, streambanks, and moist meadows, in gravelly loam, clay loam, and peat soils; often coastal but not entirely so. Some occurrences in WA grow in wetlands over exposed lava flows. Associated species include mountain hemlock (*Tsuga mertensiana*), alpine laurel (*Kalmia microphylla*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and mosses (*Sphagnum* and other taxa). Elevations in WA: 480-1585 m (2760-5200 ft).

Comments: WA populations are at the southernmost range of the species. Threats include hydrologic changes and timber harvest. This taxon is also rare in Newfoundland, Quebec, and the Yukon.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 23.



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
©1969 University of Washington
Press



© Clay Antieau



© Clay Antieau