

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

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Maine Natural Areas Program

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Carex atherodes Spreng.

Awned Sedge

- [State Rank](#): S1
- [Global Rank](#): G5
- [State Status](#): Endangered

Habitat: Calcareous meadows, swales, and shores [Coastal non-tidal wetland (non-forested, wetland)]



Range: Circumboreal, south to Maine, West Virginia, Colorado, and Utah.

Aids to Identification: Members of this genus can be difficult to identify without careful examination of microscopic features and knowledge of general groups of species. *Carex atherodes* is characterized by stout, solitary stems, or a few growing together, to a height of 0.3-1.5 meters. The stems grow from long rhizomes, and the leaf blades closest to the base are reduced to scales. The other blades are 4-10 mm wide, with coarse hairs beneath toward the base of the blade. The perigynia have 12-20 ribs, lack hairs, and are flattened toward the beak. The beak is well-developed with 2 prominent teeth. The hairy leaves plus hairless perigynia distinguish this species from other Maine *Carex*.



Ecological characteristics: Unknown

Phenology: Perennial; fruits June - August.

Family: Cyperaceae

Synonyms: None noted.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 1 town(s) in the following county(ies): Knox.

Dates of documented observations are: 1920, 1998, 2000

Reason(s) for rarity: At southern limit of range.



Conservation considerations: The known population is in a wet meadow bisected by a road. Maintenance of the hydrology is presumably important in this plant's persistence.

For more information, see the [New England Wild Flower Society's Conservation Plan for *Carex atherodes* -pdf link- 92 KB.](#)

Credits

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