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Carex livida (Wahlenb.) Willd.

Livid Sedge

- State Rank: S2
- Global Rank: G5T5
- State Status: Special Concern

Habitat: Calcareous meadows, bogs and depressions. [Open wetland, not coastal nor rivershore (non-forested, wetland)]

Range: Circumboreal, south to Newfoundland, northern Maine, New York, and New Jersey westward to California .

Aids to Identification: Identification of species of the genus *Carex* is usually difficult and dependent upon rather technical characters. *C. livida* is in the section *Paniceae* and it is distinguished by the following characteristics: leaves that are whitish, thin, and narrow (0.5-3.5 mm); perigynia 2.2-4.6 mm long and lacking a beaked tip; stems are smooth and a single stem or a few grow from long rhizomes; sterile, leafy tufts are common. The name refers to the plants bright white roots.



Ecological

characteristics:

Typically found growing in circumneutral fen communities, often in association with several other sedge species such as *Carex exilis*.

Phenology: Fruits May - July.

Family: Cyperaceae


Synonyms: *Carex livida* (Wahlenb.) Willd. var. *grayana* (Dewey) Fern.; *Carex livida* (Wahlenb.) Willd. var. *radicaulis* Paine.

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 15 town(s) in the following county(ies): Aroostook, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Washington.

Reason(s) for rarity: Scarce in southern portion of range; scarcity of suitable calcareous habitat.

Conservation considerations: Maintain hydrology of the circumneutral fen habitats in which it occurs.

Credits



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