

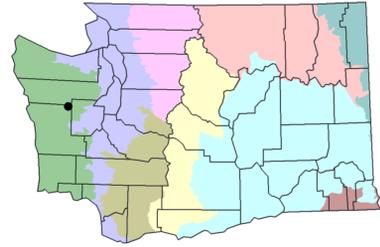
Carex anthoxanthea J. Presl & C. Presl

yellow-flowered sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1



General Description: Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+): Long-rhizomatous perennial 5-40 cm tall. Leaves flat, straight, 1.5-2.5 mm wide.

Floral Characteristics: Spikes solitary, terminal, with either female or male flowers, or rarely androgynous. Scales of female flowers are shorter than to equaling the perigynia; the tip of the scale is rounded to abruptly pointed. The perigynia beak and upper body are exposed above the scale. Perigynia usually numbering less than 15, 3-6 mm, weakly veined, hairless, base tapering, spindle-shaped, thickest in the middle, obscurely compressed-triangular, margins rounded and smooth, apex tapering to beak. Beak less than 2 mm, dark. Stigmas usually 3 (sometimes 2).

Fruits: Achenes usually 3-angled, 1.5-2.5 mm; style deciduous. Identifiable in August.

Identification Tips: This species is not in Hitchcock & Cronquist (1973). It most closely resembles *Carex circinata* (also rare in WA), but *C. anthoxanthea* has long rhizomes while *C. circinata* has short rhizomes and grows in tufts or small dense clumps. Additionally, *C. circinata* leaf margins are rolled or turned in, and the upper margins of the perigynia are finely serrulate.

Range: Circumboreal: Eurasia, AK, the Yukon, B.C., and WA. Ours are the southernmost populations known in N.A.

Habitat/Ecology: Chiefly coastal, growing in moist, open areas near bogs, on grassy slopes, and in wet meadows at low to middle elevations. The solitary population in WA grows on an upper roadside in a thickly vegetated, open wet meadow at 850 m (2800 ft). Associated species include Alaska cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*), Scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*), marsh grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris* var. *tenuis*), common ladyfern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), western oakfern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*), field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), sedges (*Carex* spp.), clasping arnica (*Arnica lanceolata* ssp. *prima*), Howell's marsh-marigold (*Caltha leptosepala* ssp. *howellii*), and Sierra larkspur (*Delphinium glaucum*).

Comments: Threats include road work and ground-disturbing activities. This taxon may have been extirpated from the Yukon Territory.

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



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