

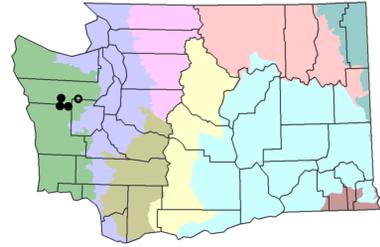
## ***Carex circinata*** C.A. Mey.

coiled sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G4 / S1



**General Description:** Adapted from Flora of North America (1993+): Perennial with very short rhizomes, growing in tufts or small dense clumps. Stems 5-25 cm high. Leaves curved, 0.5 mm wide, margins rolled inward over the upper surface.

**Floral Characteristics:** Spike solitary, terminal, bractless, androgynous. Scales of the female flowers are as wide or wider than the perigynia, often covering all but the perigynium beak; they have thin, translucent margins and rounded to pointed tips. Perigynia less than 15, 4.5-6 mm, weakly veined, hairless, linear-lanceolate, obscurely 3-angled, base tapering, margins rounded, upper margins finely toothed, apex tapering to beak. Beak less than 2 mm, tip thin and translucent. Stigmas usually 3 (sometimes 2).

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

**Identification Tips:** *Carex anthoxantha* is closely related, but has long rhizomes, does not grow in dense tufts, has flat leaves, and the upper edges of its perigynia are smooth.

**Range:** Coastal AK, Yukon Territory, B.C., and WA.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Rocky and moist areas, including cliffs, talus, outcrops, and wet meadows; usually near the coast. In WA *C. circinata* grows on a north aspect in rock crevices at the summit of a ridge, and in wet meadows near ponds and streams; elevations range from 980 to 1430 m (3220-4700 ft). Associated species include Davidson's penstemon (*Penstemon davidsonii*), sedges (*Carex mertensii*, *C. rossii*, and others), matted saxifrage (*Saxifraga bronchialis* ssp. *austromontana*), spreading phlox (*Phlox diffusa*), heather (*Phyllodoce empetriformis*), rusty lupine (*Lupinus pusillus*), Pacific silver fir (*Abies amabilis*), Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), Alaska cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*), Sierra shootingstar (*Dodecatheon jeffreyi*), and field horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*).

**Comments:** This taxon is also rare in AK.

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



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