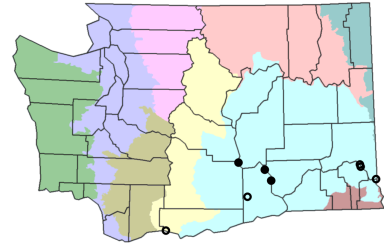


***Lipocarpa aristulata*** (Coville) G.C. Tucker  
synonym: *Hemicarpha micrantha* (Vahl) Pax var. *aristulata*  
Coville  
halfchaff awned sedge  
Cyperaceae - sedge family  
status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive  
rank: G5? / S1



**General Description:** Diminutive tufted annual 3-15 cm tall. Leaves narrow, scarcely 0.5 mm wide, resembling slender stems.

**Floral Characteristics:** Inflorescence subtended by 1-2 unequal bracts, the longest erect, appearing as a continuation of the stem, 1-3.5 cm long. Spikes 1-3 per stem, sessile, ovoid, 2-6 (8) x 1.5-2 mm. Floral scales 2. First (outer) scale light to reddish brown with a greenish midvein, 0.9-1.6 x 0.3-0.6 mm, widest at the middle, tapering to a long awned point, curving outward. Second (inner) scale oblong, veinless (sometimes with 2-4 reddish veins), 0.5-0.8 x 0.2 mm, approximately equal to the fruit. Third scale absent. Stigmas 2.

**Fruits:** Minute achenes 0.5-0.8 mm long, widest just below the tip, 1.5-2.5 times as long as wide, light reddish brown to black. Fruits late summer to early fall.

**Identification Tips:** *Lipocarpa micrantha*\* is similar but its second (inner) floral scale is absent or shorter than the fruit (0.1-0.2 mm), and its fruits are light brown. *L. occidentalis*\* has an outer floral scale widest below or up to the middle, spikes with a bristly appearance, and light brown fruits.

**Range:** CA north to WA, east to IA, MO, TX, and WI.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Wet soil and mud, often comprised of fine sand and silt, in bottomlands, sandbars, beaches, shorelines, stream banks, ponds, and ditches. In WA *L. aristulata* grows along shorelines and islands below high water at elevations up to 150 m (500 ft); sites are often dominated by rushes and spike-rushes (*Juncus* and *Eleocharis* spp.). Other associates include grand redstem (*Ammannia robusta*), lowland rotala (*Rotala ramosior*), flatsedge (*Cyperus* spp.), mudwort (*Limosella* spp.), yellowseed false pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia*), and in some cases, Columbian yellowcress (*Rorippa columbiae*).

**Comments:** The primary threat to this species is hydrologic alteration. It is also rare in OR, UT, and KS, and may have been extirpated from MO.

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



photo by Joe Arnett



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