

CHAPMAN'S SEDGE

Carex chapmannii Steud.

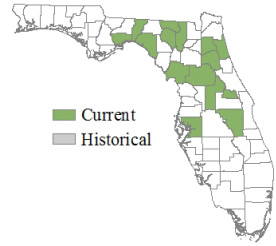
Synonyms: *Carex chapmannii* Steud.

Family: Cyperaceae ()

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none FL-Threatened

Wetland Status: US-FACW FL-none



Katy Nesmith



Brenda Herring

Field Description: Herbaceous, perennial, **herb**. The **stems** are loosely tufted or solitary, ascending or lax, 1 to 3 cm tall, with a horizontal **rhizome**. The **leaf blades** are green to yellow-green, flat, glabrous, and 15 to 43 cm long and 12-14 mm wide. The **leaf midrib** is well developed abaxially and has 2 lateral veins well developed adaxially. **Flowers** are arranged in 3 to 4 small spikes per stem, the **terminal spike** having male flowers with yellowish-brown scales, and female flowers are on two to four lower spikes. The **fruit** is a triangular achene covered by a glabrous sack-like **perigynium**. The perigynium has a prominent beak to 1.7 mm long that tapers to the base. Each spike has 6-18 perigynia.

Similar Species: Over 73 species of *Carex* are known to occur in Florida.

Related Rare Species: Four *Carex* species are listed: Baltzell's sedge (*Carex baltzellii*), Chapman's sedge (*Carex chapmannii*), sandhill sedge (*Carex tenax*), and small-toothed sedge (*Carex microdonta*). Chapman's sedge is the only listed *Carex* species that occurs in wetlands and occurs primarily east of Jackson County. The other three listed *Carex* species occur from Gadsden County west and occur in drier habitats

Chapman's sedge

Carex chapmannii

Habitat: Hydric hammock and bottomland forest; usually on wooded stream banks and in river floodplains.

Best Survey Season: Flowers March-May

Range-wide Distribution: Chapman's sedge is known from Hillsborough, Osceola, and Polk Counties northward in Florida. Its range extends north into Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Conservation Status: May be under-represented in herbaria. Formerly a C2 Federal candidate.

Protection and Management: Limit access to maintain quality of site and protect upstream creek and floodplain from disturbances.

References: FNA 22, Herring and Schultz 213, Wunderlin et al. 218.