

## List of sedges (Cyperaceae) and rushes (Juncaceae) for lab 6

### Cyperaceae

- *Carex aquatilis*
- *C. atrofusca*
- *C. bigelowii*
- *C. chordorrhiza*
- *C. saxatilis*
- *Eriophorum angustifolium*
- *E. scheuchzeri*
- *E. vaginatum*
- *Kobresia myosuroides*

### Juncaceae

- *Juncus biglumis*
- *J. arcticus*
- *Luzula arctica*
- *L. parviflora*
- *L. confusa*

**Family:** Cyperaceae  
**Common Name:** Water or Aquatic  
 Sedge

## *Carex aquatilis*

- **Rhizomatous.**
- **Conspicuous leaf-like bract at base of inflorescence often exceeding length of inflorescence.**
- **Terminal spike staminate.**
- **Several cylindrical, lateral, pistillate spikes**
- **Green perigynia with dark scales (green sides of the perigynia visible around the edges of the dark scales).**
- **Scales as long as the fruit, black (purplish).**
- **Wet to moist habitats, fens, peaty habitats, tundra, coastal flats, wet polygons, somewhat calcareous minerotrophic habitats.**



**Family:** Cyperaceae  
**Common Name:** Dark-brown Sedge

## *Carex atrofusca*

- 2-4 spikes.
- Terminal spike staminate.
- Lateral spikes pistillate on drooping pedicels.
- Perigynia with a long bidentate beak, flattened, dull.
- Scales as long as the perigynia, black.
- Habitat: mostly mesic to wet nonacidic tundras.



**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Common Name:** Rigid, Stiff or Bigelow's Sedge

## *Carex bigelowii*

- Rhizomatous.
- Culms triangular, scabrous (rough due to minute stiff upward pointing hairs).
- Leaf or reduced bract at base of inflorescence, two black auricles (spots) at the base of the bract.
- Terminal spike staminate, lateral spikes mostly pistillate.
- Perigynia green sometimes with purple spots at apex.
- Scales shorter than the perigynia, with light brown or green midvein.



**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Common Name:** Creeping Sedge or Cordroot  
Sedge

## *Carex chordorrhiza*

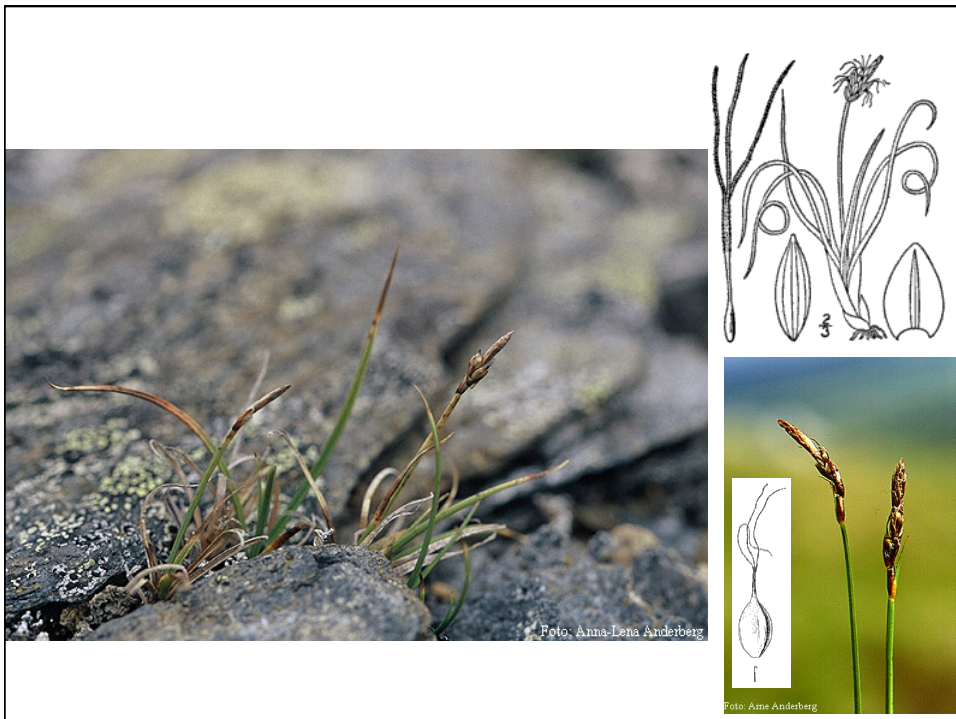
- Cord-like stolons.
- 2-8 spikes closely aggregated into a small ovoid head.
- Wet habitats



Family: Cyperaceae  
Common Name: Rock Sedge

## *Carex rupestris*

- 3 stigmas
- Curly leaves
- Single androgynous spike (males at the top)
- Few pistillate flowers at base
- Dry habitats





**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Common Name:** Russet or Rocky Sedge

## ***Carex saxatilis***

- Plants caespitose, rhizomatous.
- Terminal spike staminate,
- Leaf shoots curving upward from the base.
- Lateral spikes on pedicels, pendate (drooping in maturity).
- Perigynia is shiny dark brown or black broadly ovate or nearly spherical.
- 2 stigmas.
- Floral scales shorter than perigynia.

**Family:** Cyperaceae

**Common Name:** Creeping alkali grass

## ***Carex subspathacea***

- Turf forming, low growing (2-15 cm) ground level stems, rhizomatous.
- Spikes often hidden among the leaves.
- Scale with pale midvein.
- Multispicate, terminal spike staminate
- Saline habitats.
- Preferred forage for snow geese along with *Puccinellia phryganodes*



**Family:** Cyperaceae  
**Common Name:** Common or  
 Narrow-leaf Cottongrass

## *Eriophorum angustifolium*

- **Several pendant spikes.**
- **White bristles (the perianth) form in maturity.**
- **Spikes subtended by leafy bracts.**
- **Leaves channeled in mid portion, but channel closes to form long linear leaf tip.**
- **Leaf tips are often red in maturity.**
- **Basal leaf sheaths persistent, brownish to purplish.**

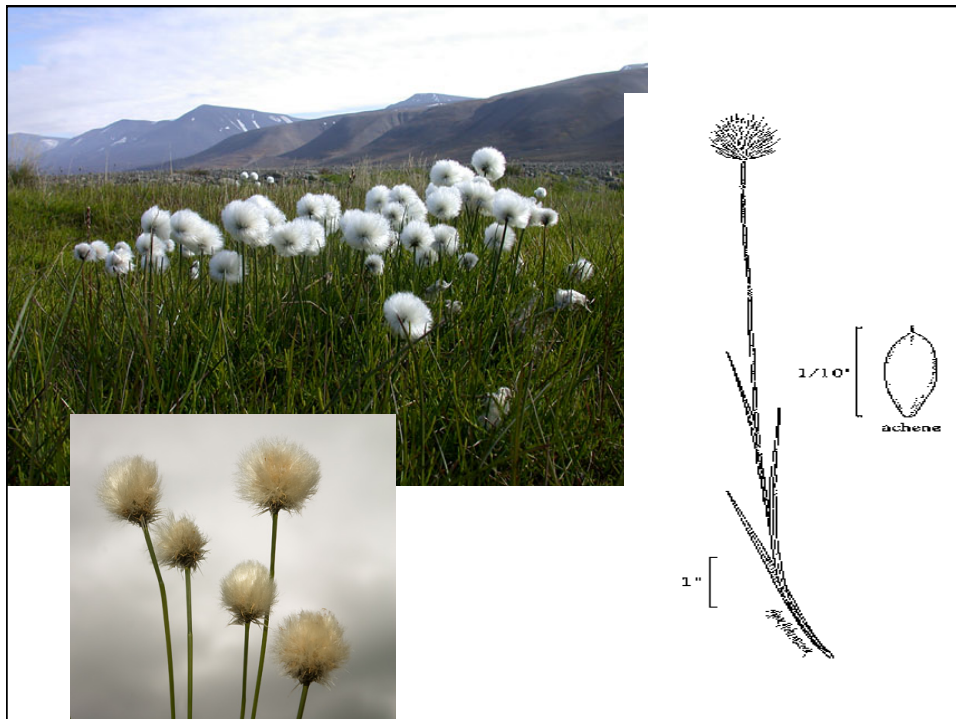


Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Scheuchzer's or  
Arctic Cottongrass

## *Eriophorum scheuchzeri*

- Single stem with single terminal ovoid spike
- Anthers 0.5-1mm long (separates *E. scheuchzeri* from *E. russeolum*, which has much longer anthers, 1.5-3 mm long.
- Wet meadows, calcareous mineral sites, also in fens



**Family:** Cyperaceae  
**Common Name:** Sheathed  
 Cottongrass, tussock cottongrass,  
 Hare's Tail

## *Eriophorum vaginatum*

- **Plants caespitose, tussock forming.**
- **Single spike.**
- **Greyish scales at base of spike.**
- **Staminate spikes favored food of caribou during spring migration.**



Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Bellard's Kobresia

## *Kobresia myosuroides*

- *Kobresia* is very similar to *Carex* except that the perigynium is open on one side (the primordial leaf is not fully fused to form the bottle-shaped perigynium as in *Carex*). *Difficult to see in the field.*
- Single spike.
- Low growing (3-20 cm tall).
- Tightly caespitose. Can form dense turfs.
- Dry calcareous habitats, often with *Dryas*, but also sands, sometimes in somewhat wet sites, fens. Prefers areas with only shallow snow.
- Was a common species in Alaska during the Last Glacial Maximum and favored food for mammoths.



**Family:** Juncaceae

**Common Name:** Arctic Rush

## *Juncus arcticus*

- **Inflorescence lateral, subtended by a terete (circular in cross section) bract that appears like an extension of the culm.**
- **Culms in rows, from horizontal rhizomes.**
- **Culms, thick stout, 30-50 tall.**
- **Habitat: Sandy shores, wet areas in dunes.**



**Family:** Juncaceae

**Common Name:** Two-flowered Rush

## *Juncus biglumis*

- Small plant, culm about 5-15 cm tall.
- Single leaf from base.
- Inflorescence: usually 2-flowers, one above the other on one side of culm.
- Single bract reaching above the flowers.
- Loosely caespitose.
- Habitat: common on disturbed sites, especially frost boils, snow beds, wet gravels, margins of tundra ponds.



Family: Juncaceae  
 Common Name: Snow or Arctic Wood Rush

***Luzula arctica***  
 (= *L. nivalis*)

- Small plant, caespitose growth form.
- Leaves flat, 2-5 mm wide, often red or purplish, acute leaf tip, .
- Culm, stiff with terminal inflorescence consisting of 1-2 small aggregate heads with numerous flowers each, with short lower bract.
- In tundra, and disturbed sites. Common on frost boils and in snowbeds. Very common in the High Arctic on zonal sites.



**Family:** Juncaceae

**Common Name:** Small-flowered Wood Rush

***Luzula confusa***

- Similar to *Luzula arctica* but narrower channeled leaves.
- Inflorescence often has clusters of spikes, crowded in sугlobose glomerules or at tips of filiform peduncles.
- Purplish, lustrous leaf sheaths at base of leaves.
- Dry heaths.





**Family:** Juncaceae

**Common Name:** Small-flowered  
Wood Rush

## *Luzula parviflora*

- Tufted or solitary with elongate rhizomes.
- Much wider leaves than *L. arctica* or *L. confusa*.
- 3-4 culm leaves 5-7 mm wide. Basal leaves 6-10 mm wide.
- Inflorescence a loose compound cyme.
- Single flowers on the end of drooping pedicels.

