

# ***Carex gynocrates*** Wormsk. ex Drejer

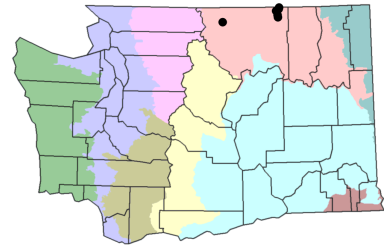
synonym: *Carex dioica* L.

yellow bog sedge

Cyperaceae - sedge family

status: State Sensitive, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5 / S1



**General Description:** Perennial; stems 0.5-2 dm tall, arising singly or in groups of 2-3, from long, slender rhizomes about 0.5 mm thick. Leaves crowded toward the base, long and very slender, mostly 3-15 cm x 0.4-0.9 mm.

**Floral Characteristics:** Spike solitary, upright, bractless, 1-1.5 cm long, usually with entirely female flowers, but often entirely male or androgynous. Female flower scales persistent, light brownish, somewhat papery or almost translucent, mostly shorter but broader than the perigynia. Perigynia crowded, plump, 3-3.5 mm long, inconspicuously to evidently marked with parallel lines, abruptly contracted to a short, obliquely cleft beak, hairless, commonly chestnut brown at maturity, soon widely spreading, often with the terminal part further recurved, the wall (especially ventrally) thick and spongy. Stigmas 2.

**Fruits:** Achenes lenticular, filling the cavity of the perigynium; rachilla obsolete. Identifiable June to August.

**Identification Tips:** Distinguished by its solitary upright spike with widely spreading perigynia, obsolete rachilla, persistent female scales, 2 stigmas, and threadlike horizontal rhizomes.

**Range:** Boreal: Siberia, Greenland, much of Canada, AK, south to PA, MI, CO, UT, NV, and OR.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Sphagnum bogs, forested wetlands and other wet marshy places; prefers calcareous substrates. In WA associated species include Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), resin birch (*Betula glandulosa*), alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*, *A. viridis* ssp. *sinuata*), bog Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *sericea*), sedges (*Carex disperma*, *C. rostrata*, *C. capillaris*, *C. leptalea*, and others), horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), and mosses. Elevations in WA: 800-1770 m (2650-5800 ft). This species is a wetland obligate, occurring in relatively large wetland complexes.

**Comments:** Threats include hydrologic alteration, timber harvesting, and livestock grazing.

**References:** Cronquist et al. 1972-94, vol. 6; Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 23.



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