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Carex siccata Dewey

Dry Land Sedge

- [State Rank](#): S2
- [Global Rank](#): G5
- [State Status](#): Special Concern

Habitat: Dry, sterile or sandy soil, in open places in light shade [Old field/roadside (non-forested, wetland or upland)]

Range: Maine to Alaska, south to Rhode Island and New Jersey, Minnesota, and Arizona.

Aids to Identification: Members of this genus can be difficult to identify without careful examination of microscopic features and knowledge of general groups of species. *Carex siccata* is in the group *Arenaria*, which has short, unstalked spikes crowded densely together. The leaves do not form basal clusters, and the stems arise from long rhizomes. *C. siccata* is an erect sedge, growing singly or in small clumps, 15-40 cm tall, from tough rhizomes. The leaves are flat, 1.5-3 mm wide, and generally only growing from the lower quarter of the stem. The leaf sheaths are very thin, and there are generally 4-12 flowering spikes arranged in a cylindric cluster. *Carex siccata* is the only sedge in Maine with both wing-margined perigynia and stems arising from long rhizomes (the ovales are cespitose species).



Ecological characteristics: Sites in Maine where this sedge has been found are in dry, old fields in the early stages of succession.

Phenology: Fruits May - July.

Family: Cyperaceae

Synonyms: *Carex foenea*, *sensu* Fernald (1950) (*Carex foenea* Willd. of Gray's Manual, Eighth Edition (Fernald 1950), but that name incorrectly applied).

Known Distribution in Maine: This rare plant has been documented from a total of 10 town(s) in the following county(ies): Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Oxford, Sagadahoc, York.

Reason(s) for rarity: Unknown.

Conservation considerations: This plant is restricted statewide to southern Maine with a disjunct population in northern Maine, and known populations are vulnerable to conversion of their habitat to residential or commercial use.

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Phone: (207) 287-3200
Fax: (207) 287-2400
TTY: Maine Relay 711
DACF@Maine.gov