



Maine Department of Conservation
Natural Areas Program

Carex atherodes Spreng.

Awned Sedge

Habitat: Calcareous meadows, swales, and shores
[Coastal non-tidal wetland (non-forested,
wetland)]

Range: Circumboreal, south to Maine, West
Virginia, Colorado, and Utah.

Phenology: Perennial; fruits June - August.

Family: Cyperaceae



Illustration from Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada, 2nd ed.

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 atherodes* is characterized by stout, solitary stems, or a few growing together, to a height of 0.3-1.5 meters. The stems grow from long rhizomes, and the leaf blades closest to the base are reduced to scales. The other blades are 4-10 mm wide, with coarse hairs beneath toward the base of the blade. The perigynia have 12-20 ribs, lack hairs, and are flattened toward the beak. The beak is well-developed with 2 prominent teeth. The hairy leaves plus hairless perigynia distinguish this species from other Maine *Carex*.

Ecological characteristics: Unknown.

Synonyms:

Rarity of *Carex atherodes*

State Rank:	S1	Critically imperiled in Maine because of extreme rarity or vulnerability to extirpation.
New England Rank:	Division 4	Historic: Once existed in New England, but has not been seen since 1970.
Global Rank:	G5	Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure globally.

Status of *Carex atherodes*

Federal Status:	None	No Federal Status.
State Status:	Endangered	
Proposed State Status:	Endangered	Rare and in danger of being lost from the state in the foreseeable future; or federally listed as Endangered. Listing criteria met: Special habitat, At edge of range, Vulnerable to human activity



- ▲ Historical (before 1982)
● Recent (1982 - present)

Known Distribution in Maine:

This rare plant has been documented from a total of 1 town(s) in the following county(ies): Knox.

Dates of documented observations are: 1920, 1998, 2000

Reason(s) for rarity:

At southern limit of range.

Conservation considerations:

The known population is in a wet meadow bisected by a road. Maintenance of the hydrology is presumably important in this plant's persistence.

The information in this fact sheet was downloaded from the Natural Areas Program's Biological and Conservation Database on 11 MAY 2004. We are grateful to our Botanical Advisory Group for additional information on particular species, and in particular, to Arthur Haines for his assistance with identifying characteristics and taxonomic questions. Nomenclature follows Haines and Vining's *Flora of Maine* (V.F. Thomas Press, 1998); where older works refer to a plant by another name, it is given under "Synonyms". The Natural Areas Program, within the Department of Conservation, maintains the most comprehensive source of information on Maine's rare or endangered plants and rare or exemplary natural communities, and is a member of the Association for Biodiversity Information.

If you know of locations for this plant or would like more information on this species,
please contact the Natural Areas Program
State House Station 93, Augusta, Maine 04333; telephone (207) 287-8044.

