Carex rostrata - Carex lacustris - (Carex vesicaria) Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Swollen-beak Sedge - Hairy Sedge - (Inflated Sedge) Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Northern Sedge Wet Meadow
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Seasonally flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.k)
ALLIANCE	CAREX (ROSTRATA, UTRICULATA) SEASONALLY FLOODED HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

Isle Royale National Park

This community is uncommon, and widely scattered through the park.

Globally

This association is found in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario, Manitoba, and possible Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This community occupies wet depressions and alluvial flats, at elevations ranging from 610 to 670 feet. Slopes are flat to gentle. Soils are very poorly drained mucks or peats that are saturated to permanently flooded.

Globally

Sites are found on floodplains, shallow bays of lakes and streams, beaver meadows, ditches, and occasionally in isolated basins, or on semi-floating mats. Hydrology is seasonally to semipermanently flooded. Substrate is mineral soil or well-decomposed peat (Curtis 1959, Harris *et al.* 1996). Standing dead trees, especially in beaver meadows, are common. Hummock and hollow microtopography is usually well developed, with standing water often in the hollows. The water regime is highly variable, ranging from saturated to permanently flooded (M. Smith personal communication 1999).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Stratum	Species
Graminoid	*Carex rostrata, Carex stricta*

Globally

Stratum	Species
Graminoid	*Carex rostrata, Carex lacustris, Calamagrostis canadensis*
Forb	*Eupatorium maculatum*

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Isle Royale National Park

Carex rostrata, Carex stricta

Globally

Carex rostrata, Carex lacustris, Carex vesicaria

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Isle Royale National Park

This wet meadow is a wetland dominated by sedges. *Carex rostrata* is the most abundant sedge (average 75% cover), *Carex stricta* is also common (average 18% cover); other characteristic herbs are *Scirpus cyperinus, Lycopus americanus* and *Sium suave; Myrica gale* is the most common shrub (< 5% cover).

Globally
Tall coarse-leaved sedges dominate the vegetation layer, often creating a tussocky hummock microtopography. Shrubs can cover up to 25% of the area. Pools with submergents may also be present. Dominant graminoids include a number of carices, including *Carex aquatilis, Carex lacustris, Carex lasiocarpa, Carex rostrata, Carex vesicaria*, and locally *Carex stricta*. Other graminoids include *Calamagrostis canadensis, Scirpus atrovirens, Scirpus cyperinus*, and, in wetter areas, *Eleocharis smallii* and *Equisetum fluviatile*. Forbs include *Acorus calamus, Aster simplex, Campanula aparinoides, Eupatorium maculatum, Iris shrevei, Lycopus uniflorus, Poa palustris, Polygonum amphibium, Potentilla palustris*, and others (Curtis 1959, Harris *et al.* 1996). Stands with standing water or water channels running through them may contain species typical of wetter conditions such as *Brasenia schreberii* or *Potamogeton* spp. In most circumstances, the moss layer is virtually absent. In the uncommon cases where sedges are colonizing a peatland, however, the moss strata can be 20-90% cover of *Sphagnum* spp. (M. Smith personal communication 1999).

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES
Isle Royale National Park
Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5.

DATABASE CODE CEGL002257

MAP UNITS 41

COMMENTS

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