

Carey's Sedge (*Carex careyana*)

Plant Species of Concern

State Rank: S1 (critically imperiled), Global Rank: G4G5 (apparently secure/secure)

Identification

Carey's sedge is a grass-like plant that reaches 1 to 2 feet (3-6 dm) in height. It grows in dense tufts and has a distinctive purplish color at the base of each leafy stem. The leaves are linear, elongate, and are relatively wide, up to 3/4 inch (18 mm). The individual flowers are tiny and are grouped in all male or all female clusters along the stem. The female spikes contain 4 to 9 sac-like structures (perigynia) that are strongly triangular in cross-section and relatively large (5 to 7 mm long) when compared to related species.

Habitat

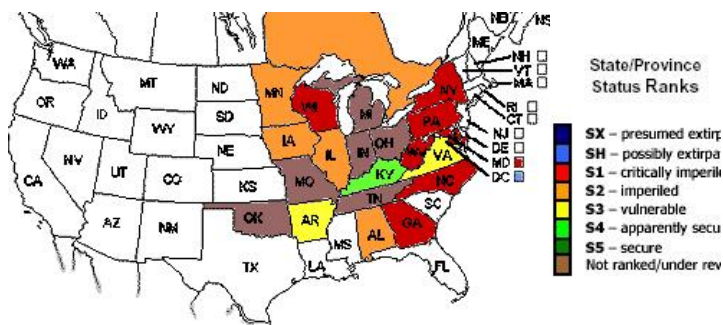
Carey's sedge has a distribution from Minnesota east into New York, and south into Georgia and Oklahoma. In Pennsylvania, the few known occurrences are located in the western half of the state. The species grows in woodlands with a limestone or calcareous substrate.



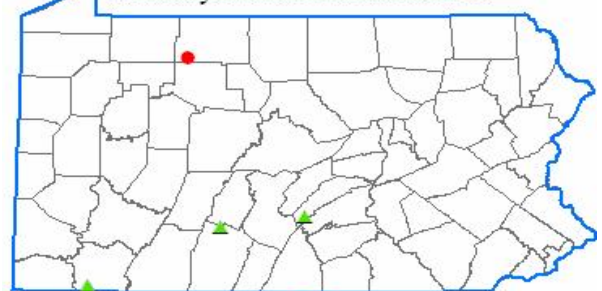
photo source: Larry Klotz

North American State/Province Conservation Status

Map by NatureServe (2007)



Pennsylvania Distribution



▲ Current records ● Records > 30 years old
Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program data 2007

Status

The PA Biological Survey considers Carey's sedge to be a species of special concern, based on the very few occurrences that have been confirmed and the specialized and infrequent habitat. It has been assigned a rarity status of Endangered.

Conservation

Carey's sedge is a plant of calcareous woodlands, and has threats from quarrying, invasive species, and logging. Creating buffers around fragmented habitat and controlling of invasive species would be beneficial in protecting occurrences.

References

- NatureServe. 2007. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 6.2. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: September 4, 2007).
- Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. 2007
- Rhoads, A. F. and W. M. Klein, Jr. 1993. The Vascular Flora of Pennsylvania: Annotated Checklist and Flora. American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
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