

Alopecurus alpinus

Family: Graminae (Poaceae)

Common Name: Alpine Foxtail

- Inflorescence very compact spike (into a “foxtail”)
- Leaf sheaths inflated.
- 1 floret per spikelet.
- No palea.
- Rhizomatous.



Arctophila fulva

Family: Poaceae

Common Name: Pendant Grass

- Aquatic grass, often red color late in summer.
- Upper leaf blades much longer than lower.
- 3-5 florets per spikelet.
- Favorite food and habitat of tundra swans.



Photograph by K. Clarkin



Photograph by Alaska DNR



Arctagrostis latifolia

Family: Poaceae

Common name: wideleaf polargrass

- Loose inflorescence (panicle) with many branches, and many spikelets per branch.
- 1 floret per spikelet.
- Rhizomatous



Photo from Seth Price, Univ. of Wisconsin



Photo from Seth Price, Univ. of Wisconsin

Calamagrostis canadensis

Family: Graminae (Poaceae)

Common Name: Bluejoint

- Many branches, and many spikelets per branch.
- 1 floret per spikelet.
- Tuft of hairs at the base of the lemma.



Carex aquatilis

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Water or Aquatic Sedge

Rhizomatous

- Conspicuous leaf-like bract at base of inflorescence often exceeding length of inflorescence.
- Green perigynia with dark scales (green sides of the perigynia visible around the edges of the dark scales)
- Scales as long as the fruit, black (purplish).
- Wet to moist habitats, fens, peaty habitats, tundra, coastal flats, wet polygons, somewhat calcareous minerotrophic habitats.



Carex atrofusca

Family: Cyperaceae

English name: Dark brown sedge (translation of the Latin 'atrofusca')

Erect sedge 15 to 30 cm tall (to 60 cm high on continental North America)

Loosely **caespitose** in several tufts

Leaves: blades 2–4 mm wide

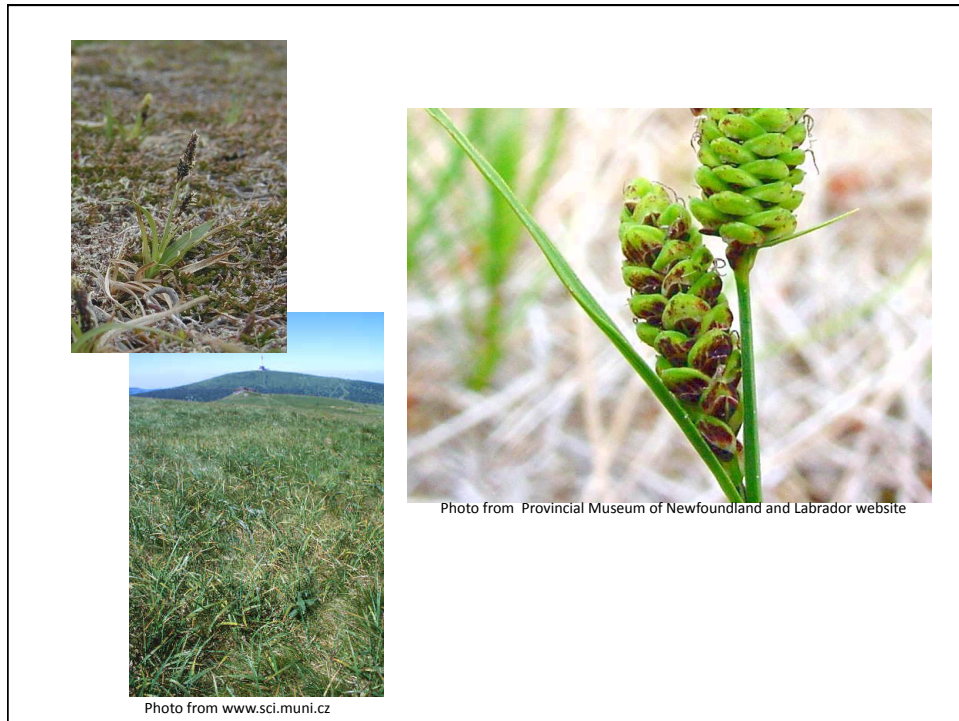
Only fibrous **roots** present

Ground level or underground stems horizontal; rhizomatous; compact

Flowers: Spikes 2–5; lateral spikes on pedicels; usually pistillate, inclined or pendent

Fruits: Perigynia ascending with a long bidentate beak, flattened, pale brown proximally, black distally, indistinctly veined, ovate. Scales as long as the perigynia, black

Habitat: Sedge meadows, moist shores; 10–300 m.

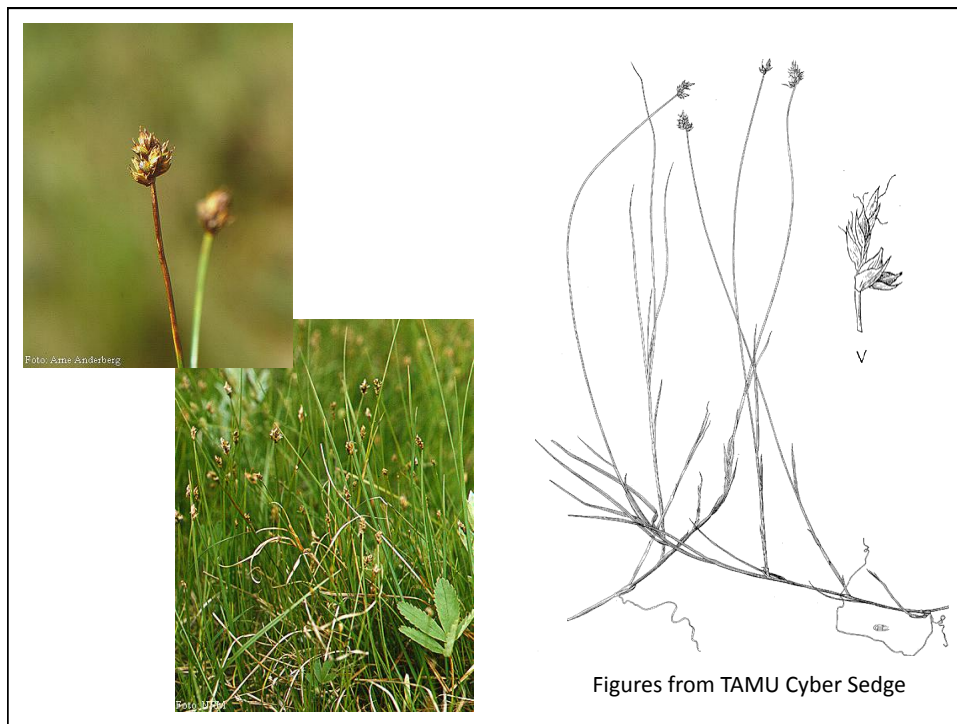


Carex bigelowii

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Rigid, Stiff or Bigelow's Sedge

- Rhizomatous
- Culms triangular, scabrous
- Leaf or reduced bract at base of inflorescence, two lack auricles at the base of the bract
- Terminal spike staminate, lateral spikes mostly pistillate
- Perigynia green sometimes with purple spots at apex
- Scales shorter than the perigynia, with light brown or green midvein

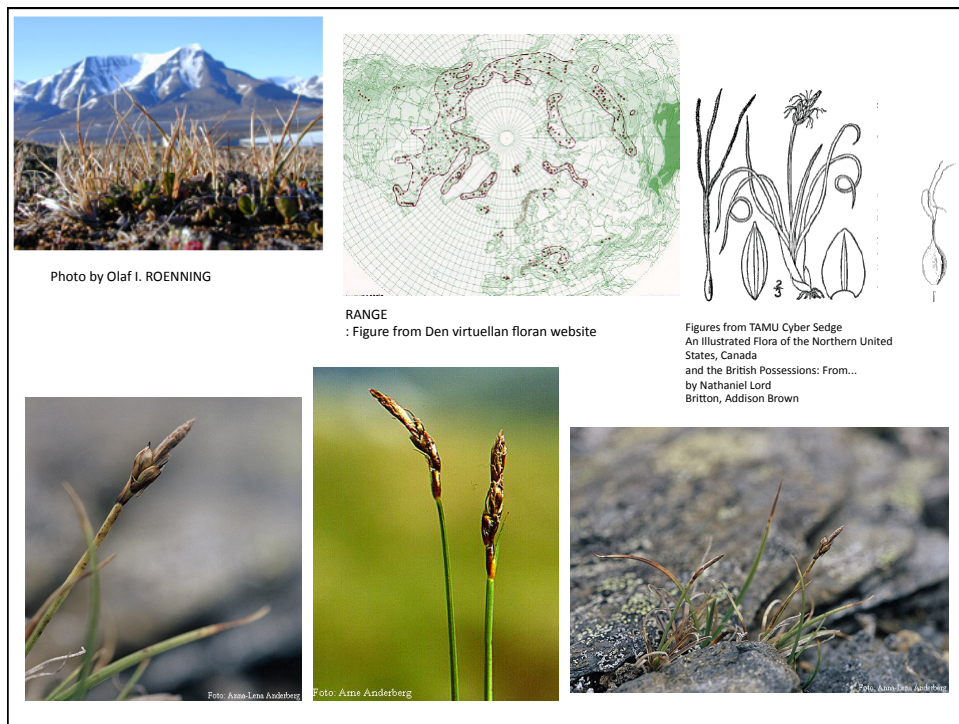


Carex chordorrhiza

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Creeping Sedge or Cordroot Sedge

- Wet habitats
- Cord-like stolons
- 2-8 spikes closely aggregated into a small ovoid head

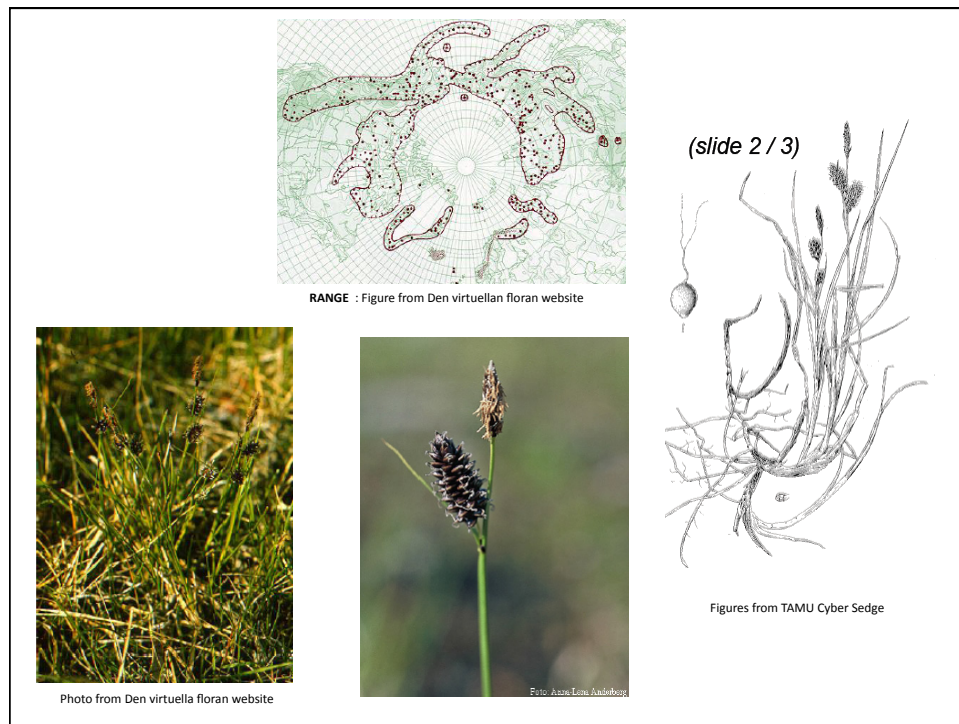


Carex rupestris

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Rock Sedge

- Dry habitats
- 3 stigmas
- Curly leaves
- Single androgynous spike (males at the top)
- Few pistillate flowers at base

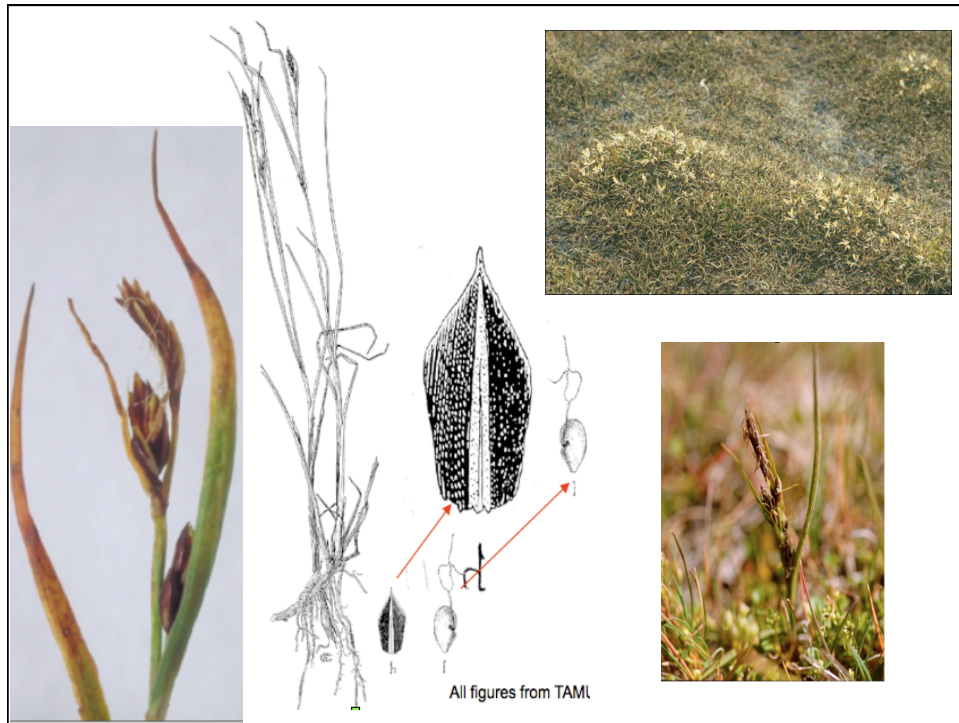


Carex saxatilis

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Russet or Rocky Sedge

- Plants caespitose, rhizomatous
- Terminal spike staminate, with leaves sweeping upward from the base
- Lateral spikes on pedicels, pendate (drooping in maturity)
- Perigynium is shiny dark brown or black, broadly ovate or nearly spherical
- 2 stigmas
- Floral scales shorter than perigynia



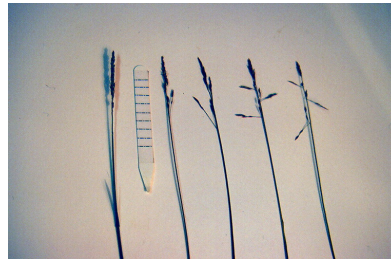
Carex subspathacea

Family: Cyperaceae
Common Name: None

- **Saline habitats**
- **Turf forming, low growing (2-15 cm), ground level stems, rhizomatous**
- **Spikes often hidden among the leaves**
- **Perigynium with pale midvein**
- **Multispicate, terminal spike staminate**
- **Preferred forage for snow geese along with *Puccinellia phytanodes***



Photo from Poaceae of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago website



Dupontia fisheri

Family: Poaceae

Common Name: Dupontia

- Wet meadows, especially near the sea coast.
- Mineral soils
- Rhizomatous
- Single stiff erect culm, persistent over winter
- Inflorescence appressed or spreading
- Leaves are canoe-shaped like *Poa*.
- Few branches
- 1-2 florets spikelet



Eriophorum angustifolium

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: common, tall or narrow-leaf cottongrass

- Cottongrass with white bristles (the perianth) in maturity
- Several pendant spikes
- Leaf margins fused at the apex

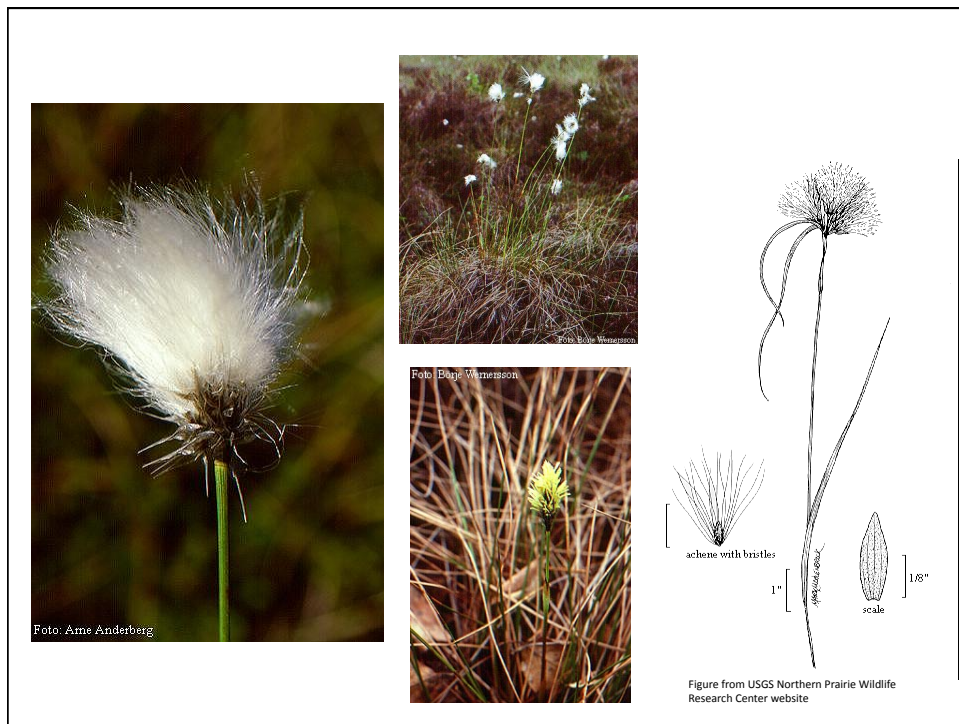


Eriophorum scheuchzeri

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Scheuchzers or Arctic Cottongrass

- Single stem with single terminal ovoid spike
- Anthers 0.5-1mm long
- Wet meadows, calcareous mineral sites, also in fens

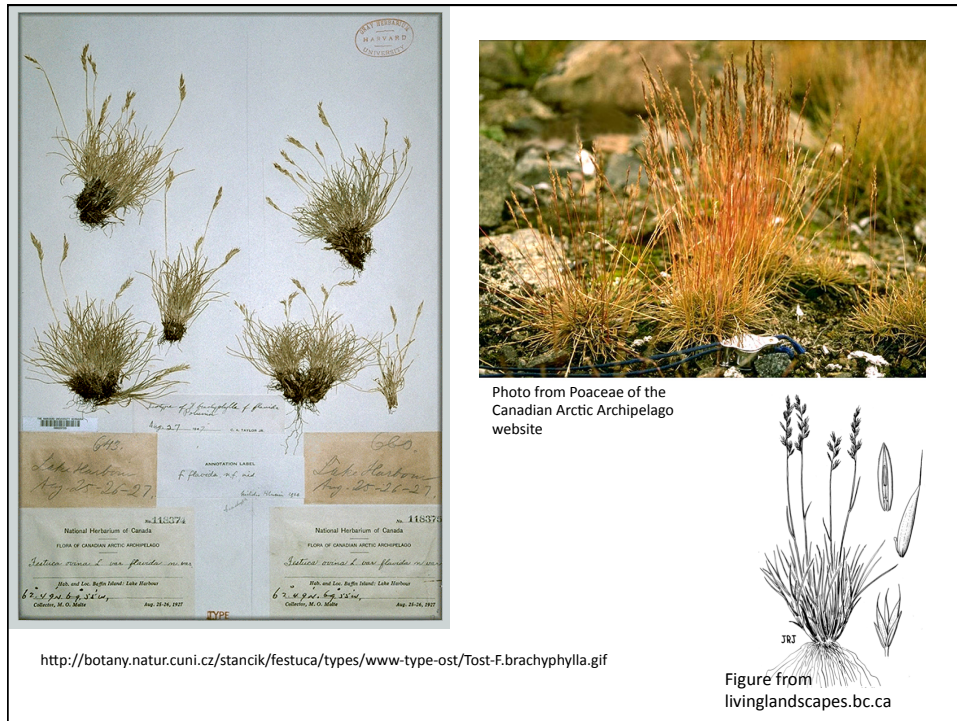


Eriophorum vaginatum

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Sheathed Cottongrass, Hare's Tail

- Plants caespitose, tussock forming
- Single spike



Festuca brachyphylla

Family: Poaceae

Common name: alpine fescue

- Short (<15 cm), caespitose,
- Narrow 0.3-1 mm leaves
- Reddish in nitrogen-rich habitats, often around animal dens, owl perches, dry habitats
- Laterally compressed spike. Branches 1-9 mm long
- 2-4 florets per spikelet
- Festuca is differentiated from Poa by awn at the tip of the lemma, and generally narrower (not canoe-shaped) leaves.



Hordeum jubatum

Family: Poaceae

Common name: Squirrel-tail Grass, Foxtail Barley

- Introduced plant, often along roads, dry meadows, widespread.
- Inflorescence spicate (the spikelets forming a triad at each node with the central one fertile and usually sessile, the lateral ones pedicellate, and usually sterile).
- 1 floret per spikelet.
- Very long awn from tip of lemma 10-60mm long.

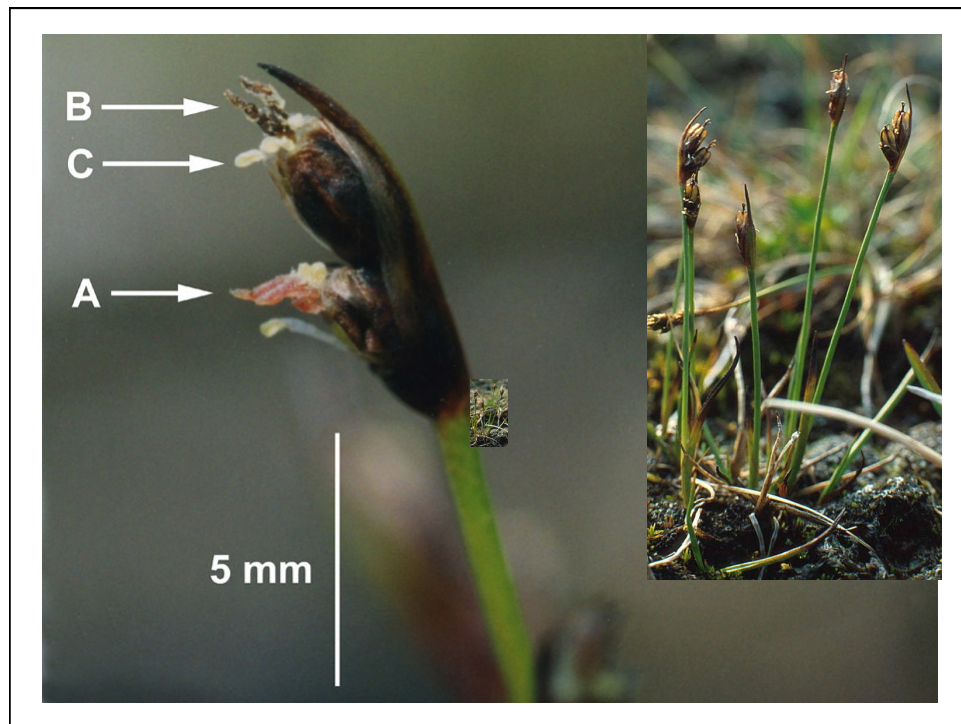


Juncus arcticus

Family name: *Juncaceae*

Common name: arctic (bog) rush

- **Growth form:** Rush
- **Leaves:** absent or leaf teeth; merely cataphylls , blade usually absent (present in var. *mexicanus*).
- **Stems:** Flowering stems two or more per plant.
- **Flowers:** Flowers variously pedicellate; bracteoles membranous; tepals chestnut brown or paler.
- **Habitat:** A pioneer species. Substrates: around the margins of ponds, marshes, along stream

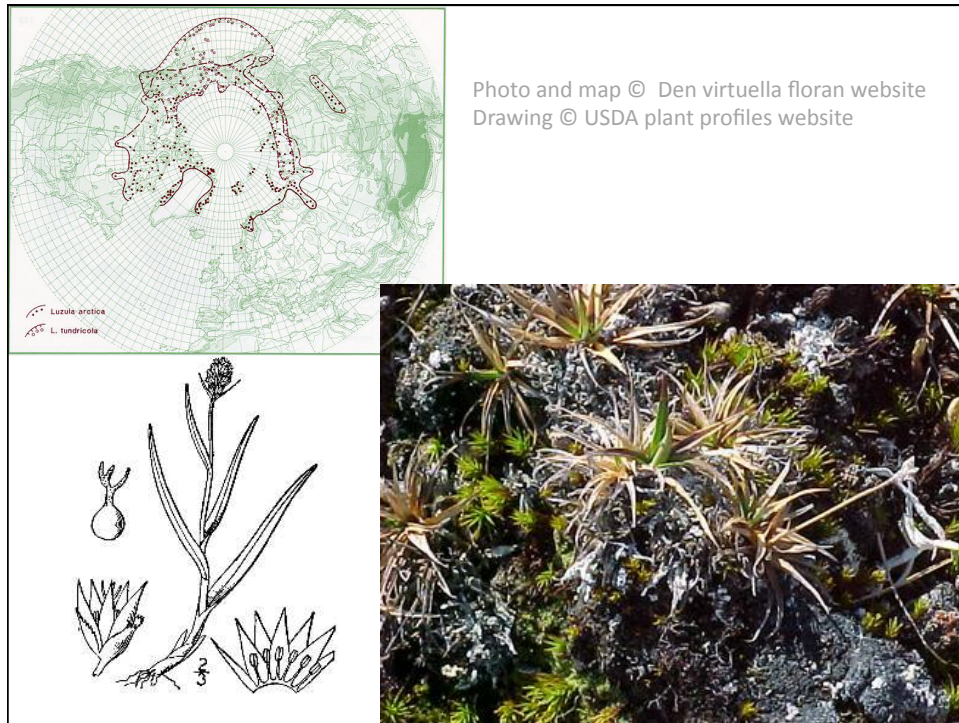


Juncus biglumis

Family name: *Juncaceae*

Common name: arctic (bog) rush

- **Growth form:** Graminoid
- 3–20(–30) cm high
- **Leaves:** mainly basal (**cataphylls 2–3**); alternate, dying annually and non-persistent.
- **Stems:** Flowering stems without leaves in the upper half.
- **Flowers:** Flowers per inflorescence (1–)2–3(–4); small. Inflorescences head-like (flowers tend to be one on top of the other, the upper one flowering first; a contrast to *J. triglumis*)
- **Habitat:** wet meadows, snow patches. acidic, or calcareous



Kobresia myosuroides

Family: Cyperaceae

Common Name: Bellard's Kobresia

- *Kobresia* is very similar to *Carex* except that the perigynium is open on one side (the primordial leaf is not fully fused to form the bottle-shaped perigynium as in *Carex*).
- Single spike
- Low growing (3-20 cm tall)
- Tightly caespitose
- Dry calcareous habitats with *Dryas*, but also sands, and in somewhat wet sites, fens



Luzula arctica

Family name: Juncaceae

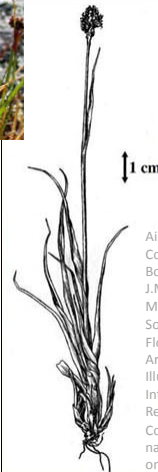
Common name: Snow or Arctic Woodrush

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- A perennial (annual) in the Juncaceae family.
 - Grows in graminoid habitats.
 - 20–80 cm tall, with linear grass-like leaves.
 - Native to Alaska, Canada, and Greenland.

Information © USDA plant profile website



Photo © Urtekilden, accessed from their website www.rolv.no



Aiken, S.G., Dallwitz, M.J., Consaul, L.L., McLannet, C.L., Boles, R.L., Argus, G.W., Gillett, J.M., Scott, P.J., Elven, R., LeBlanc, M.C., Gillespie, L.J., Brysting, A.K., Solstad, H., and Harris, J.G. 2007. Flora of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago: Descriptions, Illustrations, Identification, and Information Retrieval. NRC Research Press, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa. <http://nature.ca/aafloara/data>, accessed on 2/21/2013.

Luzula confusa

Family name: Juncaceae

Common name: northern woodrush

- **Plants:** 5–30 cm high; perennial herbs with aerial stems that are erect.
- **Leaves:** Grass like and basal leaves that are alternate and persist for many years. Straight, linear, channeled, and involute blades that are 15–60 mm long, 0.6–2 mm wide (reddish colored) with parallel veins. The adaxial surface of the blades are glabrous and non-glandular hairs are at the blade margins.
- **Roots:** Fibrous roots present. They are rhizomatous with underground stems that send out roots and shoots from nodes.
- **Habitat:** This plant is very common and found in wet meadows, hummocks, around the margins of ponds or other water sources, depressions of low-centre polygons, tundra, seashores, imperfectly drained moist areas, seepage slopes, dry, moderately well-drained areas rocks, gravel (often on beaches), sand, till, moss; with low organic content, with high organic content, peat; acidic (found on weakly acidic sandstone, granite and sand), or calcareous. Pretty much everywhere.

Aiken, S.G., Dallwitz, M.J., Consaul, L.L., McLannet, C.L., Boles, R.L., Argus, G.W., Gillett, J.M., Scott, P.J., Elven, R., LeBlanc, M.C., Gillespie, L.J., Brysting, A.K., Solstad, H., and Harris, J.G. 2007. Flora of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago: Descriptions, Illustrations, Identification, and Information Retrieval. NRC Research Press, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa. <http://nature.ca/aafloara/data>, accessed on 2/21/2013.



Photo from Provincial Museum of Newfoundland and Labrador



Luzula parviflora

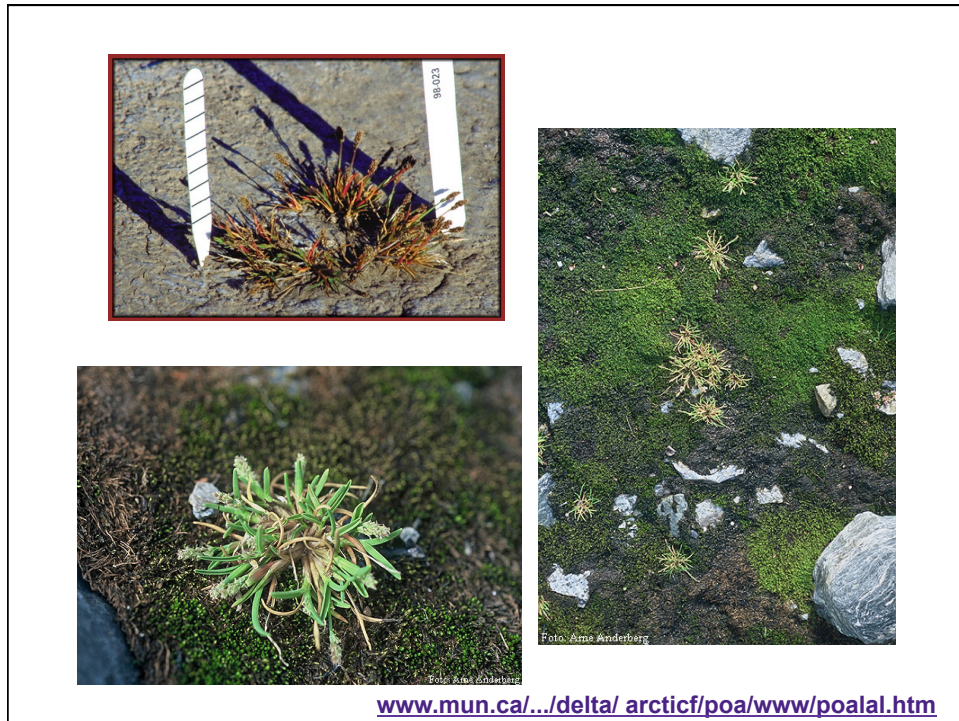
Family: Juncaceae

Common name: small-flowered Wood Rush

Leaves - most at stem base, 3 - 6 on stem, 4 - 10 mm wide, flat, sometimes with long, white hairs along edges.

Fruits - dark brown, egg-shaped capsules, 2 - 2.5 mm long, equal to or longer than flower scales; many seeds, brown, 1.1 - 1.5 mm long.

Flower Cluster - open, loosely branching, cluster of small groups of flowers nodding on long, slender stalks; 6 flower scales, brown, pointed, 1.8 - 2.5 mm long; bracts shorter than flower cluster, edges torn, often with long hairs.



Phippsia algida

Family: Poaceae

Common name: Common Icegrass

- Circumpolar High Arctic species, mainly coastal species
- Snowbeds, wet areas, disturbed areas
- Nitrophilous
- Generally small caespitose plants
- Compressed spike

"Perennial, tufted; less than 1 dm tall; inflorescence usually a contracted panicle membranous ligule; spikelet with a single perfect floret, nerves converging near the apex; glumes less than 1 mm long, the lower minute; lemma exceeding at least 1 glume."

(A Field Guide to Alaska Grasses, pg. 74-75: <http://digital.ipcprints-services.com/publication/?i=116723&pre=1>)



Poa arctica

Family: Poaceae

Common Name: Arctic Bluegrass

- Perennial grass
- Purple flower color
- Approx. 61 cm at maturity
- Monocot
- Erect stem formation
- Medium foliage texture

2012. *Poa arctica* PLANTS Profile. United States Department of Agriculture. <http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=POAR2>



Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States. USDA Miscellaneous Publication No. 200. Washington, DC. 1950.

Trietum spicatum

Family: Poaceae

Common name: Spike trietum

Vegetative morphology: 10–40 cm; perennial herbs; **caespitose**. Only fibrous roots present. **Ground level or underground stems absent**. Aerial stems erect.

Leaves: **mainly basal**; alternate; marcescent. Petioles absent. Sheaths present; with the margins fused only in the lower part; trichomes; hirsute. **Grasslike**. 17–85 mm, 1.2–2.2 mm wide, linear, **hairy**.

Reproductive morphology: Flowering stems 2+ per plant, circular or oval in cross section, culm nodes not exposed. **Inflorescences paniculate (dense, cylindrical or ovoid, often deep purple-brown)**

Habitat: water edges, tundra, slopes. Commonly found in well-drained, acidic, silty, sandy, or gravelly soils, often at the edge of disturbed terrain, such as thaw-flow slides, and disturbed sites. Most of North America.

<http://nature.ca/aflora/data/www/potrsp.htm>

http://www.arcticatlas.org/photos/pltspecies/spp_enlargement.php?queryID=trsp2&fileName=trsp2_2.jpg