

Changed in CNPS Inventory on February 16, 2011

Rare Plant Status Review: *Carex davyi*

List change from List 4.3 to List 1B.3

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Carex davyi is an endemic, perennial herb in the Cyperaceae. It is included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993), *The Flora of North America* (Vol. 23), and will be included in *The Jepson Manual*, 2nd Edition (available online at:

http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/tjm2/review/treatments/cyperaceae_all.html#17365).

Carex davyi occurs in subalpine and upper montane coniferous forest from approximately 1500 to 3200 meters in elevation. It is very similar to *C. petasata* since both contain the largest perigynia in the section *Ovales*. *Carex davyi* differs from *C. petasata* by having smaller translucent pistillate flower bract margins and an inconspicuous versus obvious abaxial flap on the beak of its perigynium. *Carex davyi* flowers from May to June.

Carex davyi was included in Appendix I (Rare and Not Endangered Plants) of the CNPS Inventory, 1st Edition (1974), included on List 3 (Plants Rare, But Not Endangered) of the 2nd Edition (1980), and included on List 4 (Plants of Limited Distribution) of the 3rd Edition (1984), where it has remained ever since. It currently has a CNPS Threat Rank of 0.3 (Not very endangered in California) and is ranked by NatureServe as a G3 / S3.3 taxon.

Carex davyi is known from approximately 15 occurrences in 7 counties throughout northern Sierra Nevada. One record from Carson Pass, Amador County, needs to be annotated before it is ascribed to *C. davyi* (Dean Taylor pers. comm. 2010). Additionally, the reference of *C. davyi* from Lake Vernon, Tuolumne County (Yosemite National Park Resource Inventory), has been discounted as it is not supported by a voucher specimen, and also because the habitat noted in the plot description is not suitable for this taxon (Dean Taylor pers. comm. 2010).

Carex constanceana was not included in *The Jepson Manual* (1993) and is treated as a synonym of *C. davyi* in *The Jepson Manual*, 2nd Edition. It was deleted from the CNPS Inventory as a List 1B taxon on November 5, 2010. *Carex constanceana* was only known from one occurrence in California, at Sagehen Creek Experimental Forest, Nevada County. *Carex davyi* was also known from the Sagehen area prior to the treatment of *C. constanceana*, and therefore the ascription of *C. constanceana* to *C. davyi* did not result in a significant range extension for this taxon.

Of the 15 known occurrences of *C. davyi*, only 3 have been documented in the last 20 years (occurrences that have not been “seen” in the past 20 years are considered historic by the CNDDDB), and 11 are only represented by herbarium

specimens that are over 50 years old. Furthermore, two records of *C. davyi* from Tuolumne County, 1944 (J.T. Howell CAS322007 and CAS322008), have been searched for by botanists in the past several years without success, and are therefore presumed to be possibly extirpated occurrences (Dean Taylor pers. comm. 2010).

Carex davyi is possibly threatened by indirect impacts of logging. Additionally, occurrences of *C. davyi* outside of Sagehen and the Carson Pass region are possibly threatened by grazing.

Based on the available information, CNPS and CNDDDB recommend that *Carex davyi* be re-ranked from List 4.3 to List 1B.3.

Recommended Actions

CNPS: Re-rank from CNPS List 4.3 to List 1B.3.

CNDDDB: Possibly Re-rank from G3 / S3.3 to G2 / S2

Revised CNPS *Inventory* record:

Carex davyi Mack.

Davy's sedge

Cyperaceae

List 1B.3

Alpine, Calaveras, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, Tuolumne (?).

Carson Pass (506B) 3811968, Ebbetts Pass (506D) 3811957, Pacific Valley (506C) 3811958, Dorrington (492D) 3812033, Echo Lake (523D) 3812071, Emerald Bay (523A) 3812081, Kyburz (524D) 3812073, English Mtn. (556A) 3912045, Independence Lake (555A) 3912043, Martis Peak (554D) 391031, Truckee (554C) 3912032, Hobart Mills (554B) 3912042, Webber Peak (555B) 3912044, Falls Ridge (454B) 3711984, Koip Peak (453C) 3711972.

Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest; elevation 1500-3200 meters.

Perennial herb; blooms May - June.

Known from fewer than 20 extant occurrences. Possibly threatened by grazing and logging. Similar to *C. petasata*.