

CHAPMAN'S SEDGE

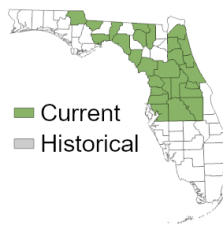
Carex chapmanii Steud.

Synonyms: *Carex styloflexa* Buckl. var. *fusififormis* (Chapm. ex Dewey) Wiegand; *Carex chapmanii* Steud.

Family: Cyperaceae (sedge)

FNAI Ranks: G3/S3

Legal Status: US-none; FL-Threatened



Growing in hydric hammock at Snipe Island Unit of Big Bend Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Field Description: Perennial, **herb** with **stems** loosely tufted or solitary, ascending or lax, 10 - 30 cm tall, with a horizontal **rhizome**. The **leaf blades** are green to yellow-green, flat, glabrous, and 15 - 43 cm long and 5 - 10 mm wide. The **leaf midrib** is well developed abaxially and has 2 lateral veins well developed adaxially. **Flowers** are arranged in 3 - 4 small spikes per stem, the **terminal spike** having male flowers with pale green scales, and female flowers are on two to four lower spikes. The **fruit** is a triangular achene covered by a glabrous sack-like **perigynium**. The **perigynium** has a prominent beak to 1.7 mm long that tapers to the base. Each spike has 6 - 18 perigynia.

Similar Species: Similar to some members of the *Laxiflorae* section within *Carex*, but always having rhizomes, rather than being caespitose.

Chapman's sedge

Carex chapmanii

Related Rare Species: Four *Carex* species are listed (including Chapman's sedge): Baltzell's sedge (*Carex baltzellii*), sandhill sedge (*Carex tenax*), and small-toothed sedge (*Carex microdonta*). The other three listed *Carex* species occur from Gadsden County west and occur in drier habitats.

Habitat: Calcareous hydric hammocks and bottomland forests; usually on wooded stream banks and in river floodplains.

Best Survey Season: Spring; March - May.

Range-wide Distribution: Southeastern NC south to central peninsular FL, endemic to the Coastal Plain.

Conservation Status: Found with regularity in the Big Bend region of Florida and in the rest of its range tends to occur in dense small clumps or scattered individuals in a small area. Threatened by forestry operations in bottomlands and hog digging.

Protection and Management: Protect hydric hammocks and bottomland forest from forestry operations and changes in hydrology. Control hog populations within managed land.

References: FNA 2002, Weakley, A. S. and the Southeastern Flora Team 2024, Wunderlin and Hansen 2011.



Fruits lanceolate, tapering to the base. Growing in floodplain swamp at Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.

Chapman's sedge

Carex chapmanii



Plants long rhizomatous typically greater than 5 cm long. Growing in floodplain swamp at Caravelle Ranch Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.



Growing in hydric hammock at Aucilla Wildlife Management Area. Photo by Kelly Anderson.