

SIZE: 30-120 cm tall.

LEAVES: Shorter than the stem, 2-3 mm wide.

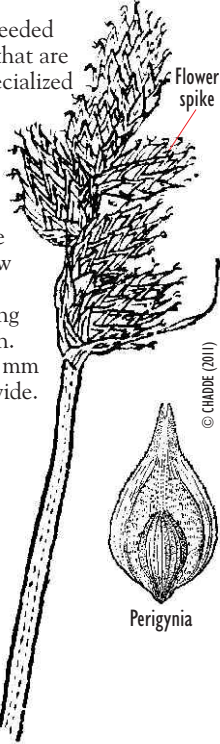
STEM: Stiff and longer than the leaves.

FLOWERS: 3-10 long, narrow, oval-shaped spikes (5-15 mm long) are clustered together at the top of the stem. They attach directly to the stem (no stalk) and the male flowers are directly below the female flowers.

FRUITS:

Small, dry, one-seeded fruits (achenes) that are enclosed by a specialized sac-like covering called the perigynia. The perigynia are teardrop-shaped with a broad base and a long narrow tip (beak) with thick lines running along their length. They are 1.3-1.7 mm long and 1 mm wide.

NOTES: This species grows densely clumped together.



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Oval-shaped flower spikes



Broom Sedge flowers

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Habitat:

Acidic red maple swamps, bogs, river and lakeshores, and coastal wetlands.

Interesting point: This species was unintentionally introduced into Hawaii and New Zealand.

Similar species: Broom Sedge (*C. scoparia*) is the only similar species that is reasonably common in the same habitats as Long's Sedge. Clustered Sedge (*C. cumulata*) is typically found in quite dry habitats. Marsh Straw Sedge (*C. hormathodes*) is typically found in salt marsh margins. Proper identification requires a magnifying lens and a good key (such as Flora of North America, www.fna.org). One can suspect Long's Sedge in the field based on habitat, smallish size, erect and relatively small spikelets, oval-shaped cluster of flowers at the top of the plant and the thick lines along the fruit (perigynia).