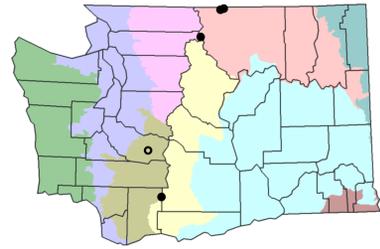


Luzula arcuata (Wahlenb.) Sw. **ssp.**
unalaschkensis (Buchenau) Hultén
synonym: *Luzula arcuata* (Wahlenb.) Wahlenb.
curved woodrush
Juncaceae - rush family
status: State Sensitive, USFS sensitive
rank: G5T3T5 / S1



General Description: Tufted perennial (5) 7-20 (30) cm tall, with short stolons. Basal leaves flat, usually tinged with purple, margins hairy, often rolling in toward the upper side, 8-15 cm x 3-5 mm wide. Sheath throats rounded and densely hairy. Stem leaves 1-3, shorter than the basal leaves and not reaching the inflorescences.

Floral Characteristics: Flowering stems slender; inflorescence with 8-15 dense clusters of flowers, usually with 3-5 flowers per cluster, borne on very slender, spreading, drooping branches, tending to arch in the same direction. Bract subtending the inflorescence bladeless (merely a sheath wrapped around the stem). Tepals light to dark brown, fringed with hairs, almost equal in length, about 2 mm long. Stamens 6; anthers (0.3) 0.5 mm long, somewhat shorter than the filaments.

Fruits: Capsules ovoid, less than or almost equal to the tepals, 1-celled. Seeds 3, 1.2-1.3 mm long, cylindrical-ovoid, with few hairs present, slightly pointed at both ends. Identifiable July to August.

Identification Tips: *L. arcuata* is distinguished by its inflorescence branches tending to arch in the same direction and flowers usually borne in clusters of 3-5. *L. spicata* has flowers aggregated into a dense, spikelike inflorescence on a thick, reddish stem. *L. parviflora* has flowers borne mostly in pairs, rarely in clusters of 3-4.

Range: AK to B.C., Alberta, MT, and WA.

Habitat/Ecology: Alpine to subalpine glacial moraines, mountain meadows, rocky and gravelly areas, rocky ridges, talus, bare patches of sandy soil; often adjacent to snow fields. Elevations in WA: 2145-2510 m (7040-8230 ft). Associated species include willows (*Salix arctica*, *S. cascadiensis*), yellow mountainheath (*Phyllodoce glanduliflora*), white arctic mountain heather (*Cassiope tetragona*), sedges (*Carex brewerii*, *C. nigricans*, and others), rushes (*Luzula spicata*, *L. piperi*), woolly pussy-toes (*Antennaria lanata*), Cusick's speedwell (*Veronica cusickii*), weak saxifrage (*Saxifraga rivularis*), and crustose lichens.

Comments: This taxon is also rare in OR and Alberta.

References: Flora of North America 1993+, vol. 22.

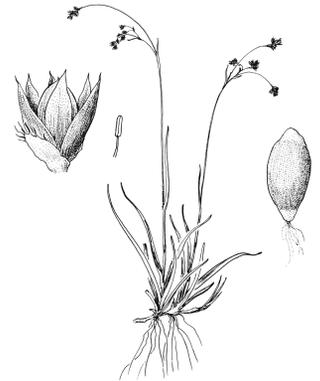


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