



Juncus brevicaudatus

narrowpanicle rush

Family Juncaceae

Origin Native

WIS Code OBL CoC 6

DESCRIPTION

This member of the rush family, often growing in dense clusters, has erect, unbranched, smooth, round stems (10 to 60 cm tall), with brownish basal sheaths. One to three basal leaves are present, with one or two alternate narrow leaves along the stem.



© Rob Routledge

FLOWERS AND FRUITS

June through September. Flower heads are somewhat tightly clustered and compact on slightly ranching stalks from upper part of the stem (4 to 15 cm long). Flower heads have two to seven florets per head and sharply pointed sepals and petals. Capsule (3 to 4.3 mm) is dark brown, three-angled, narrow, much longer than the perianth (set of petals and sepals wrapping the flower), and contains oblong ribbed seeds with "tails" at both ends of each seed.



© MinnesotaWildflowers.info

HABITAT

More common at higher elevations in bogs, seeps, pond edges, and beaver meadows.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Juncus subcaudatus, woodland rush, also common in mountain wetlands, has compact flower heads but they occur on widely spreading many branched stalks (not slightly branched) with more florets (eight to 20) per flower head than *J. brevicaudatus*. Other differences include capsules about equal in length to the perianth and seeds with a very prominent rib in *J. subcaudatus*.

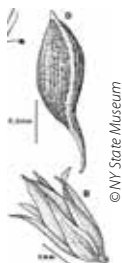


© NY State Museum



© Rob Routledge

Juncus brevicaudatus



© NY State Museum



© Robert W. Harding

Juncus subcaudatus