

Systematic Botany. Lecture 15

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Outline

Questions and answers

Cyperaceae—sedge family

Juncaceae—rush family

Typhaceae—cattail family

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Previous final question: the answer

Which subfamily includes corn?

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- ▶ Panicoideae

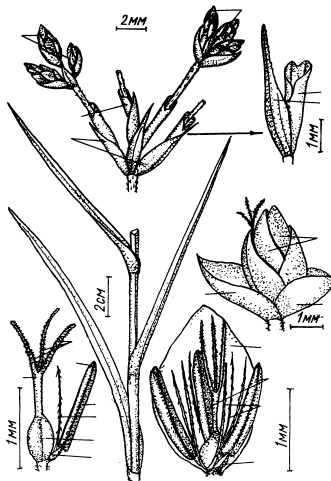
Main features of Cyperaceae

- ▶ 4,000 species, \approx 1,000 belongs to sedges, *Carex*
- ▶ Grasslike plants, distributed mostly in temperate and Arctic regions
- ▶ Prefer wet places

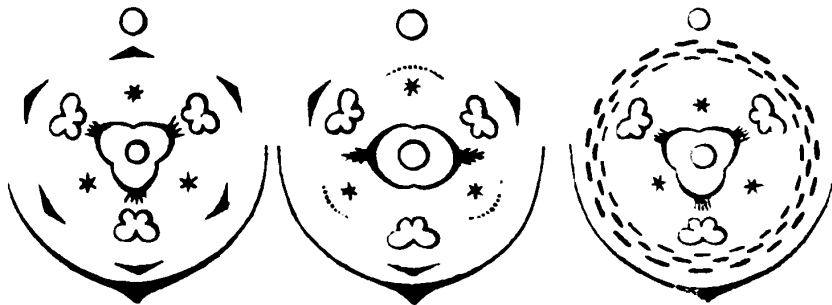
Morphology of Cyperaceae

- ▶ Accumilate silica
- ▶ Leaves often in 3 ranks, stem is also a triangle on the cross-section
- ▶ Flowers small, wind-pollinated, unattractive, often unisexual, form spikes or spikelets and more complicated inflorescences
- ▶ Pollen grains in monads (from four microspores, only one survives)
- ▶ Perianth often reduced, stamens three, one pistil with one ovule but three carpels
- ▶ *Carex* flowers have specific bag-like periginium
- ▶ Fruit is an achene

Scirpus sylvaticus floral parts



Cyperaceae flower diagram



*P₃₊₃0A₃G₍₂₋₃₎

Diversity of Cyperaceae

Importance: Sometimes food, weaving materials, ornamentals

- ▶ *Eleocharis*—spikerush: base of style enlarged. *E. dulcis* is a Chinese water-chestnut. 7 species in ND.
- ▶ *Scirpus*—bulrush: scales are spirally arranged. 9 species in ND.
- ▶ *Eriophorum*, cottongrass was used as fiber source
- ▶ *Cyperus*—cyperus: spikelets with two rows of scales. *C. papyrus* was used for famous Egyptian papyrus, *C. esculentus* (chufa) has edible corms (occurred in Fargo region), 7 species in ND.

Eriophorum sp.



Cyperus papyrus



Carex flower

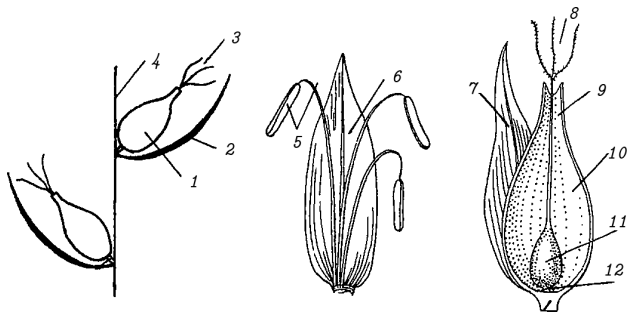
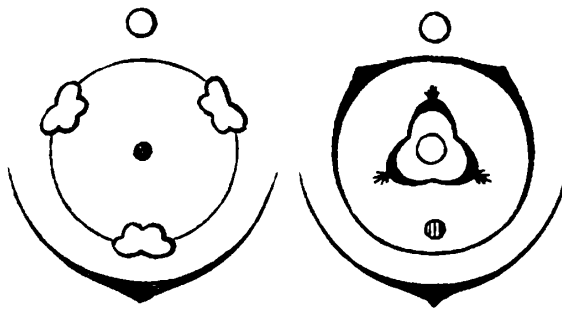


Diagram of *Carex* flower



$*P_0A_3$ or $\uparrow P_0G_{(2-3)}$

Diversity of sedges (*Carex*)

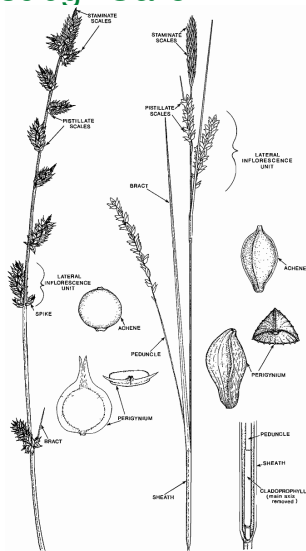
Carex covers almost half of wet places in Arctic and northern temperate region. 3-ranked leaves, female flowers enclosed in perigynium.

Main groups:

1 spike Subgenus *Psyllophora*, e.g. *Carex filifolia*

Bisexual spikes Subgenus *Vignea* (and also tropical subg. *Indocarex*), e.g. *Carex brevior*

Unisexual spikes Subgenus *Carex*, e.g. *Carex retrorsa*

Subg. *Vignea* vs. subg. *Carex*

Carex filifolia



Carex brevior



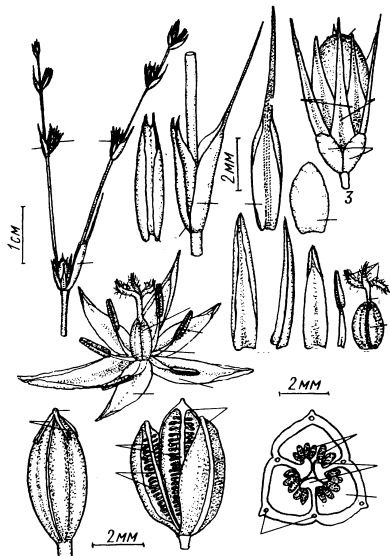
Carex retrorsa



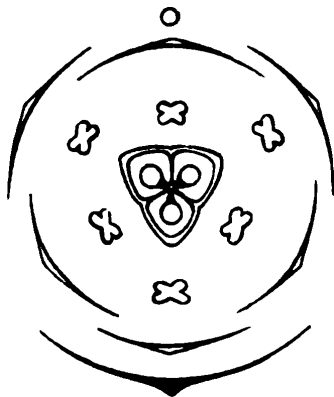
Juncaceae—rush family

- ▶ \approx 300 species
- ▶ Distributed in temperate and montane regions, growing in dump places
- ▶ Life forms: grass-like herbs
- ▶ Leaves flat to cylindric, with open sheath, sometimes reduced
- ▶ Flowers actinomorphic, 3-merous, perianth of 6 tepals, 6 stamens
- ▶ Pistil has 3 carpels
- ▶ Fruit is a capsule

Juncus bufonius flower parts



Juncaceae flower



*P₃₊₃A₃₊₃G₍₃₎

Representatives of Juncaceae

Importance: weaving materials

- ▶ *Juncus*—rush: cylindric leaves
- ▶ *Luzula*—wood-rush: “normal” grass-like flat leaves

Juncus effusus



Typhaceae—cattail family

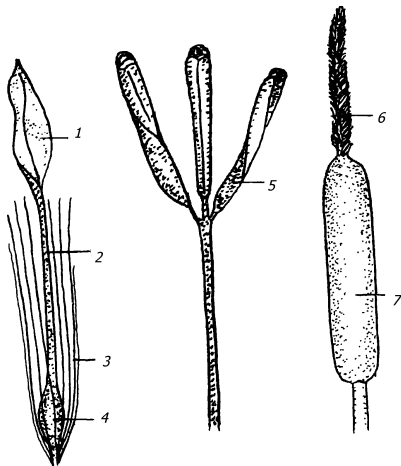
- ▶ \approx 40 species
- ▶ Distribution: widespread
- ▶ Life forms: grass-like coastal or water plants
- ▶ Leaves distichous, linear, mostly basal
- ▶ Flowers very reduced, male with one or 3 stamens
- ▶ Pistil unicarpellate, with one ovule
- ▶ Fruit an achene or drupe

Typhaceae flowers



♂*P₃A₃; ♀*P₃G₁

Typha latifolia flower parts



Representatives of Typhaceae

Importance: mating and weaving material, edible pollen and rhizomes, sometimes ornamental.

- ▶ *Sparganium*—bur-reed (sometimes separated to its own family)
- ▶ *Typha*—cattail

Sparganium eurycarpum



Summary

CHARACTER	JUNCACEAE (RUSHES)	CYPERACEAE (SEDGES)	POACEAE (GRASSES)
GENERA/SPECIES	8/300	146/5,315	650–785/10,000
HABITAT	wet areas	wet areas or sterile soils	dry to moist areas
STEM CROSS SECTION	terete	triangular	terete or ellipsoid
INTERNODES	solid, with large pith	usually solid	usually hollow, or less commonly solid
NODES	not jointed	not jointed	jointed
LEAF RANKS	3	3	2
LEAF BLADE	flat to terete	flat	flat
LEAF SHEATH	open	closed	open and with ligule
INFLORESCENCE	basically cymose, and often congested	arranged in spikelets	arranged in spikelets
NUMBER OF BRACTS SUBTENDING EACH FLOWER	2 or more	1 (glume, scale)	usually 2 (palea and lemma)
PERIANTH	usually 6 chaffy tepals	absent, or reduced to a varying number of bristles or scales	reduced to 2 (or sometimes 3) lodicules
ANTHER ATTACHMENT	basifixed	basifixed	basifixed, but deeply sagittate and appearing versatile
POLLEN	in tetrads	single, but each grain ("pseudomonad") representing a degraded tetrad	single
FRUIT TYPE	loculicidal capsule	achene	caryopsis (grain)
EMBRYO	surrounded by endosperm	embedded in base of endosperm	outside of endosperm

Final question (2 points)

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How to distinguish between grasses and sedges?

For Further Reading



O. A.Stevens.

Handbook of North Dakota plants. 3rd edition.

NDSU, 1963.