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Carex rostrata

[Synonyms : *Carex ambigens*, *Carex ampullacea*, *Carex anticostensis*, *Carex inflata*, *Carex rostrata* var. *ambigens*, *Carex rostrata* var. *rostrata*, *Carex utriculata*]

BOTTLE-SEDGE is a creeping perennial sedge. Native to Asia, Europe and North America it has purplish-brown flower spikelets.

It is also known as Beaked sedge, Blue sedge, *Flaskestorr* (Norwegian), *Flaskstarr* (Swedish), *Hesgen Chwysigennaidd Ylfinfain* (Welsh), *Ljosastör* (Icelandic), *Næb-star* (Danish), Northern yellow lake sedge, *Ostrica zobáèikató* (Slovak), *Ostřice zobánkatá* (Czech), *Pullosara* (Finnish), *Schnabel-Segge* (German), *Seisg shearragach* (Scots Gaelic), and Swollen beaked sedge.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Rostrata is Latin (beaked, curved).

In North America the Thompson Indian tribe have dug up the roots for food and it has also been eaten by some of the Inuit tribes.

Records note that the roots are sometimes eaten by muskrats. The grass offers forage for cattle, sheep and horses – and locally it also furnishes straw for bedding in stables. It provides food for wild life such as bison, elk, deer and many birds, particularly geese as well.

Environmentalists appreciate its dense underground stems as these can help to stabilise streambanks and prevent soil erosion.