New Records of Cyperaceae and Juncaceae from the Yukon Territory

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Two new species of Cyperaceae are reported, viz., *Carex hoodii,* and *Eleocharis elliptica.* Also, range extensions for eight species of *Carex, Eriophorum,* and *Juncus* are listed.

Key Words: Vascular plants, Yukon Territory, new records, range extensions.

In the last ten years, considerable advances have taken place in the knowledge of the vascular flora of the Yukon Territory (Cody, 1996, 2000; Cody et al., 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003). In spite of this, the flora is still incompletely known, as indicated by the frequent and substantial additions.

In 1980, the first author commenced detailed field studies of the distribution of permafrost in the south and central Yukon Territory, together with the nature and dynamics of the associated landforms (Harris 1998, 2004; see also Wall et al. 1987). As part of the work, plants were collected and have been systematically identified. For the more difficult groups, the material was sent to specialists who have helped in the identification. P.W.B. carried out the task of identifying the Cyperaceae and some of the Juncaceae. The result is a substantial collection of sheets that are in the collection of the first author (UAC #60 000 – 74 000). Comparison of these with the published lists of species and their distributions indicates that there are at least two species not previously described for the Yukon Territory, as well as some range extensions and name changes of varying importance. This paper will describe these changes. The nomenclature used follows that in the recent Flora of North America, volume 23 (Flora of North America Editorial Committee 2002).

Species New to the Yukon

CYPERACEAE

Carex Hoodii Boott – YUKON. Hart River road at 1180 m elevation, east of the Dempster Highway at km 78, about 138º14'W., 64º30'N. (UAC 66735).

It occurs on the wet shrub tundra between the clumps of *Betula glandulosa* and *Salix* spp., and is unlike any of the other *Carex* species. This species should be added to the list of rare plants in the Yukon (Douglas et al. 1981).

Eleocharis elliptica Kunth. – YUKON. Klondike River bridge, Dempster Highway at 138º44'W., 63º59'N. (UAC 70230).

This North American species is widespread in Alberta (Moss 1983, page 158), and should be looked for elsewhere in the southern Yukon Territory. It is characterised by yellow, orange or brown achenes with 12-20 vertical ridges. It should be added to the list of rare plants of the Yukon Territory (Douglas et al. 1981).

Range Extensions in the Yukon

CYPERACEAE

Carex foenea Willdenow – YUKON. Tagish Campground, 134°15'W., 60°19'N. (UAC 70310), and Lucky Lake, east of Watson Lake, 134°30'W., 60°01'N. (UAC 61656).

It is probably present at scattered localities across the southern Yukon Territory in wet places in Lodgepole Pine forests. It has previously been found in three localities (Cody, 1994, page 149; Cody et al. 1998, page 301) including Watson Lake.

Carex glareosa Wahlenburg – YUKON. Minto Landing in grassy glades at 136°53'W., 62°03'N. (UAC 70268).

Douglas et al. (1981), and Cody (1994, page 440; 1996; Cody et al. 1998, page 301) have previously reported it from north of the 69th parallel, but this represents a large extension of its range southwards by some 7° of latitude.

Carex lapponica O. F. Lang – YUKON. Sheldon Lake, 131°13'W., 61°38'N. (UAC 70271).

Cody et al. (1988, page 301) had earlier collected it in the extreme southeast of the Territory.

Carex magellanica Lamark ssp. *irrigua* (Wahlenburg) Hiitonen – YUKON. Watson Lake at 128°41'W., 60°03'N. (UAC 73050).

It was previously collected further west and north (Cody, 1996, page 157) and further east (Cody et al. 1998, page 302).

Carex marina Dewey – YUKON. Minto Landing, at 136°53'W., 62°03'N. (UAC 66965), as a rare component of the grassy open areas in the boreal forest along the river bank, close to the steep, grassy, south-facing slopes of the valley walls.

This is presumably an extension of its limited range in adjacent south-central Alaska in the rain shadow of the Wrangel Mountains (Hultén, 1968, page 239). Cody (1996, page 157) only reported it from Herschel Island, the Lower Blow River delta (Cody et al. 1998, page 303), and the Malcolm River delta.

Carex pachystachya Chamisso ex Steudel – YUKON. Macmillan Pass between 1097 m and 1250 m at 130°30'W., 63°21'N. and 130°06'W., 63°23'N. (UAC 61619, 61620), Tombstone Mountain Campground, km 75, Dempster Highway, about 138°14'W., 64°30'N. (UAC 61615), and Dragon Lake, North Canol Road, 131°20'W., 62°33'N. (UAC 70287).

These sites represent a large range extension from the south Yukon (Cody 1996, page 162) to the northern limit of the Boreal Forest. Harris (1998, page 269) previously listed it as being present at km 161.7, Robert Campbell Highway. It's rarity needs to be verified.

JUNCACEAE

Juncus stygius Linnaeus ssp. *americanus* (Buch.) Hultn – YUKON. Thermokarst Mounds, South Fork, Blackstone River, Dempster Highway at 138°22'W., 64°48'N., July 1987 (UAC 70257).

Cody (1996, page 190) previously reported it from the Keno Hill area, while Cody et al. (1998, page 305) found it at Coal River in the southeast Yukon.

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"Ashkui" Vernal Ice-cover Phenomena and Their Ecological Role in Southern Labrador

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This is the first documented incident of River Otter *(Lutra canadensis)* feeding on Common Goldeneye *(Bucephala clangula)* in a little studied region, southern Labrador. Our observations were made during spring staging when waterfowl aggregate at open water sites in frozen lakes and rivers, locally known as *ashkui.* We suggest that otters and raptors opportunistically forage on staging waterfowl at *ashkui.*

Key Words: River Otter, *Lutra canadensis,* Common Goldeneye, *Bucephala, clangula,* Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus,* predator-prey interactions, staging waterfowl, ashkui, Labrador.

Ashkui (singular and plural form) is the Innu name given to sites of open water in river and lake systems within the frozen spring landscape of Labrador (Fletcher and Breeze 2000*). Migratory waterfowl, including Common Goldeneye *(Bucephala clangula),* use *ashkui* as staging areas enroute to their breeding grounds. These birds arrive in groups of tens to hundreds to rest and rebuild energy reserves by feeding on invertebrates, fish, seeds and other plant material at *ashkui* (Newbury 2002*). Beaver *(Castor canadensis),* River Otter *(Lutra canadensis)* and Muskrat *(Ondatra zibethicus),* have been observed at these sites. Osprey *(Pandion haliaetus)* and Bald Eagle *(Haliaeetus leucocephalus)* are known to fish at *ashkui* (Fletcher and Breeze 2000*). The temporal existence, number and distribution of *ashkui* sites are influenced by a high