

CAREX MARITIMA Gunn., AN ADVENTIVE SEDGE AT THE PAS, MANITOBA

by WILLIAM J. CODY* and WALTER KRIVDA**

Carex maritima is an arctic circumpolar species which characteristically occurs along sandy seashores. Thus, in North America it is found adjacent to the coasts of the arctic islands, along the arctic coast, the shores of Hudson and James Bays and south along the Labrador coast to Northern Newfoundland where it is found on turfy limestone barrens.

Inland populations are quite rare and scattered and usually in sandy situations. On this continent these situations are only in the west: in the Brooks Mountain Range in Alaska, in the Ogilvie Mountains of Yukon and Alaska, at Lake Athabaska in Saskatchewan, in the Banff region of southern Alberta, near Edmonton, Alberta, and in the mountains of Colorado. Some of these inland collections, as well as the one from York Factory mentioned below, have been referred to *C. maritima* var. *incurviformis* (Mack.) Boivin (*C. incurviformis* Mack.) by Bernard Boivin (personal communication). A map depicting the circumpolar range of the species is given by Hultén¹.

In Manitoba the only localities reported by Scoggan are from coastal situations at York Factory and Chur-

chill². Indeed, it has been collected many times at the latter locality where it is sometimes quite robust in stature.

A new site has just been discovered at The Pas, Manitoba, about 400 miles SW of Churchill, near the Saskatchewan border. Here *Carex maritima* would appear to be an adventive, presumably carried in by the railroad. A single clone about one foot in diameter was found almost hidden in gravel; only the fruiting heads and upper parts of the leaves were protruding, and these were not observed until after rain. Data are as follows: *Manitoba*: The Pas, along railway in gravel, *W. Krivda s.n.*, 8 June, 1973 (DAO and personal herbarium of W. Krivda).

Carex maritima often forms extensive mats, with ascending tufts of leaves arising from deeply buried cord-like rhizomes; the generally arching culms which barely overtop the leaves may be low-growing or ascend to over 20 cm in height; the fruiting head consists of several tightly packed spikes of which the terminal one is inconspicuously staminate at the tip; the ovate and bluntish pistillate scales are brown with broad thin pale margins, and are exceeded by the divergent membranaceous subinflated perigynia. The var. *incurviformis*, which is doubtfully distinct, is reputed to have less inflated and somewhat nerved perigynia, and the scales lanceolate-

Biosystematics Research Institute,
Central Experimental Farm,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C6

*P.O. Box 864,
The Pas, Manitoba.

ovate and only narrowly hyaline-margined.

Figure 1 depicts the plants collected at The Pas.

¹HULTÉN, E. 1968. *Flora of Alaska and Neighboring Territories*. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif. 1008 pp.

²SCOGGAN, H. J. 1957. *Flora of Manitoba*. National Museum of Canada Bulletin 140: 1-619.

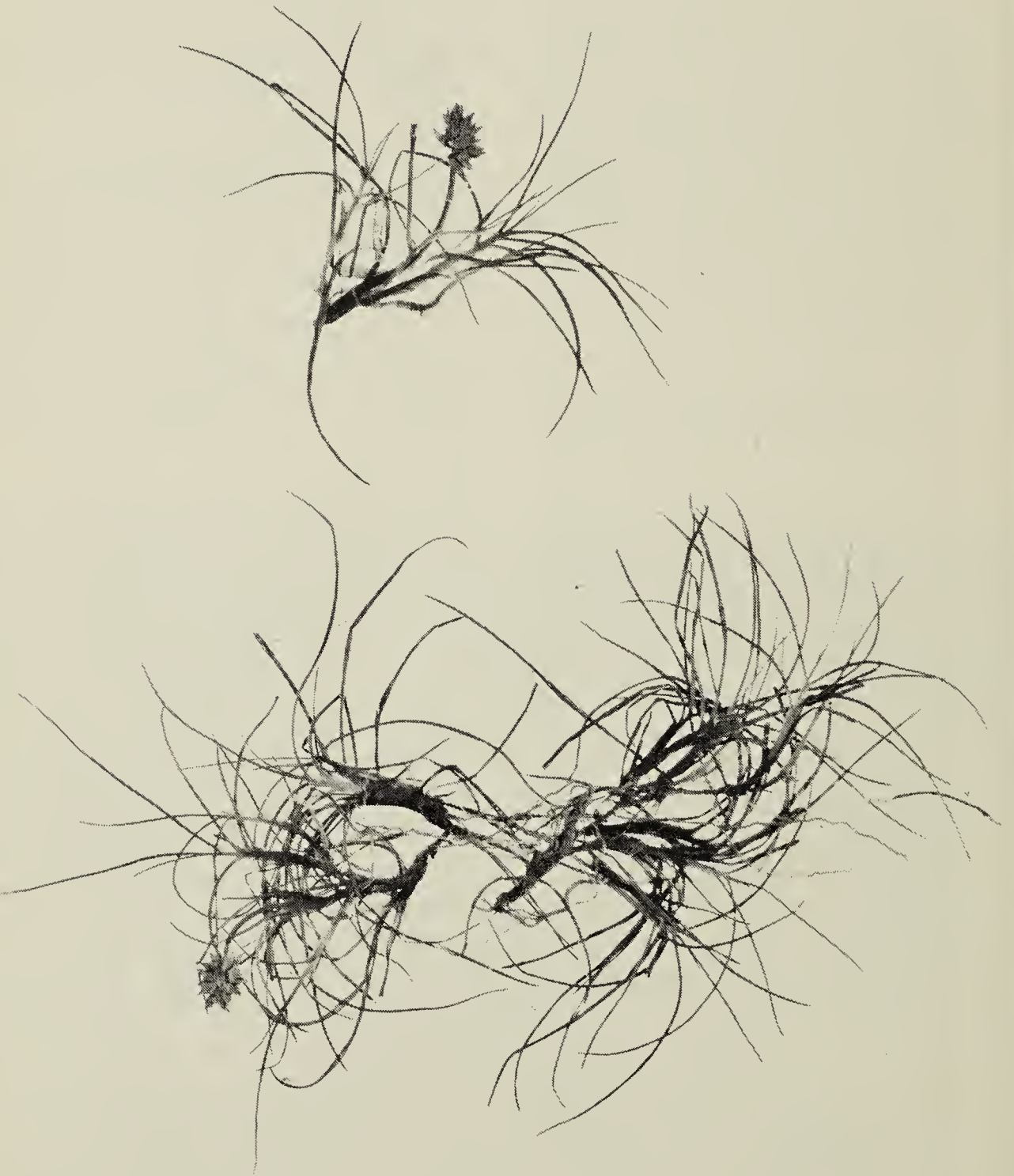


Figure 1. *Carex maritima* collected by W. Krivda at The Pas, Manitoba.