

Eriophorum chamissonis

russet cottongrass

Cyperaceae



Charlene Simpson

Robert L. Carr

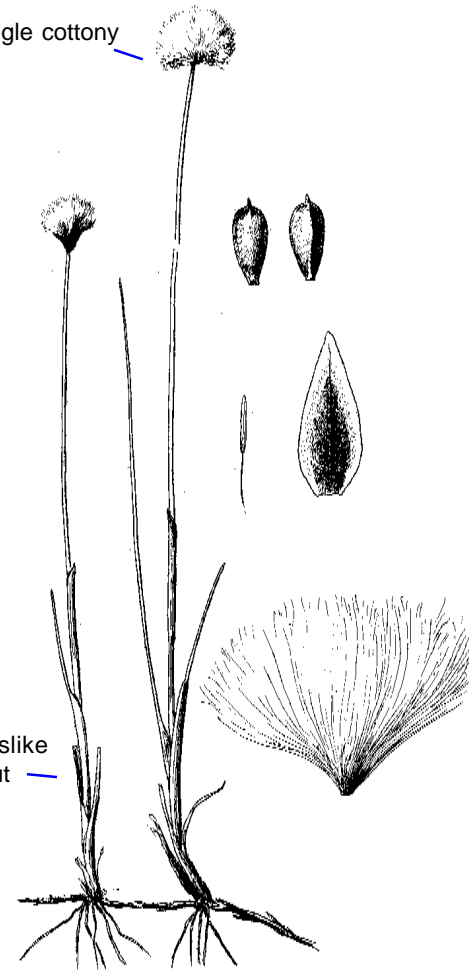


Robert L. Carr



flowers in a single cottony cluster

perennial grasslike herbs with stout stems



VASCULAR PLANTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST (1969) Hitchcock & Cronquist, courtesy of University of Washington Press.

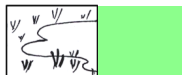
Colonial perennial herb from creeping rhizomes. **Stems** stout, 30-70 cm tall. **Leaves** few, mostly borne near the base, with well-developed sheath and short to elongate, narrow, triangular or channeled blade up to ca. 2 mm wide, the uppermost sheath borne below or sometimes a little above the middle of the culm, often bladeless. **Inflorescence** a terminal spikelet; blade-bearing bracts absent; distal leaves without blades or these short; sterile scales not more than 7, the spikelet appearing broad-based; outermost sterile scale(s) in ours enlarged and conspicuous, often shortly sheathing at the base, mostly 1-2 cm long; fertile scales partly blackish-green, but the tip and distal margins evidently paler, merely russet-flecked on a nearly white background; anthers mostly 1-2.5 mm long. **Achenes** dark, obovate, ca. 2 mm long with a prominent stylar apiculus; bristles conspicuously reddish to practically white.

Lookalikes

Differs from featured plant by

Eriophorum gracile.....distal leaf blades 10-40 mm long; spikes smaller, typically (slender cottongrass) has more than one spike; occasional individuals with a single spike.

best survey times
J|F|M|A|M|J|J|A|S|O|N|D

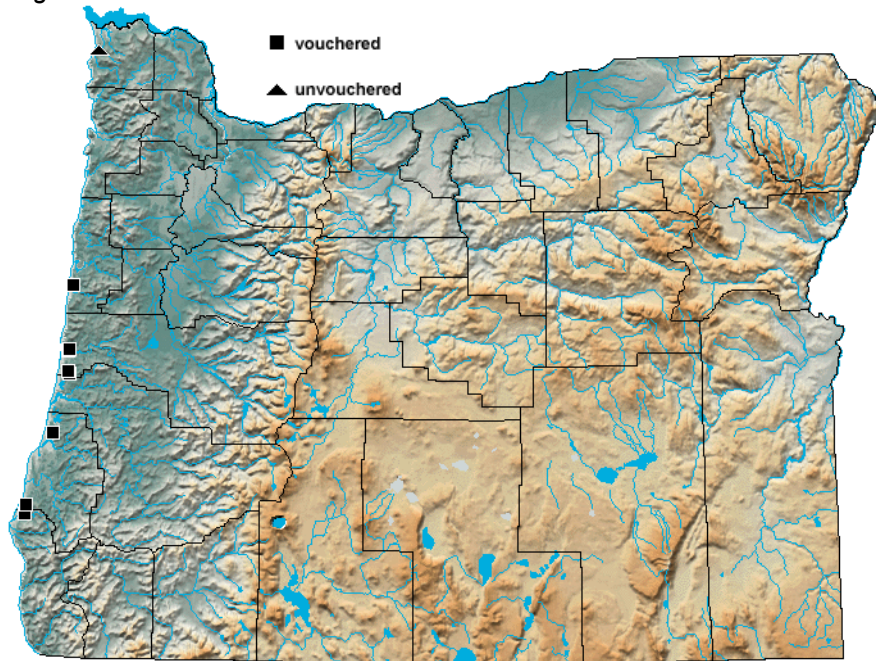


Eriophorum chamissonis

russet cottongrass

PLANTS symbol: ERCH7

August 2019 status ORBIC: List 2



Distribution: Low elevation coastal areas in Oregon, also at higher elevations elsewhere; Washington; northern US, Canada, circumboreal.

Habitat: Wet meadows, peat bogs.

Elevation: 0—50 m

Best survey time(in flower): May-August

Associated species:

Sphagnum spp. (peat moss)

Rhododendron columbianum (Labrador tea)

Darlingtonia californica (pitcher plant)

