



Carex abrupta. (A) Inflorescences, (B) pistillate scales, (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B through D: Left and center—dorsal views; right—ventral view.

Carex abrupta Mack.
Abrupt-beaked sedge

HABIT: Densely caespitose from very short rhizomes. **Culms:** Erect, 4-6 dm tall, much longer than the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Borne toward the base. **Blades:** Flat, 1.5-2.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin and hyaline ventrally, truncate at the mouth.

BRACTS: Small and inconspicuous.

SPIKES: Several, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, indistinguishable, crowded into a capitate head 9-17 mm long.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate with an acuminate tip, shorter and narrower than the perigynia, brown with lighter midveins.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly lanceolate to ovate, broad and rounded at the base, abruptly contracted at the apex, usually flat or plano-convex, membranaceous, **wing**-margined to the base, serrulate from the middle to the beak, 3-5.4 mm long, 1-2.1 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several on both surfaces. **Beaks:** One-fourth to one-third the length of the body, usually greater than 1.2 mm long; the upper portion terete, smooth, hyaline-tipped.

ACHENES: Ovate, lenticular, short-stipitate, brown, 1.2-1.8 mm long, 0.7-1.1 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Common, montane. Yellow pine forests, alpine fell fields, meadows, and open slopes, usually in dry soil. **From 1,400 m to high elevations.** Oregon, California, and Nevada (Sierra Nevada Mountains). **June-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 1.