



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

Carex alma Bailey
Bountiful sedge

HABIT: Densely clustered without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Sharply triangular, roughened above, 3-12 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Clustered toward the base. **Blades:** Flat or channeled, thick, 3-6 mm wide, strongly serrulate along the margins. **Sheaths:** Tight, thin, purplish dotted ventrally, slightly convex at the mouth.

BRACTS: Small and inconspicuous, sheathless; lowest sometimes elongate and setaceous-tipped.

SPIKES: Numerous, sessile, **androgynous**, densely aggregated into an interrupted oblong or cylindrical head 3-15 cm long, 1-2 cm wide; perigynia appressed or ascending-spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate with an acute to awned tip, about equaling or exceeding the perigynia, greenish or partly castaneous along the median with broad white-hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate to oblong-ovate, round-truncate at the base, strongly plano-convex, thin-walled, spongy at the base, narrowly sharp-margined and serrulate above, substipitate, brown or partly greenish to almost black at maturity, 3-4.2 mm long, 1.5-2.3 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several dorsally, none ventrally. **Beaks:** Flat, somewhat abruptly contracted, serrulate, bidentate, 0.6-1.4 mm long.

ACHENES: Ovoid, lenticular, substipitate, reddish brown at maturity, 1.5-2.5 mm long, 0.9-1.8 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Frequent around springs, along streams, and in other wet places. **Low to moderate elevations** in southern Nevada, western Arizona, Utah (Washington County), and the central and southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, central and southern coast, and southeastern desert mountains of California. **May-July.**