



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

Carex douglasii Boott
Douglas sedge

HABIT: Not tufted, developing from slender, creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, stiff, smooth, obtusely triangular, (0.5)1-3 dm tall, usually exceeding the leaves, **phyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-8, clustered near the base. **Blades:** Involute but sometimes flattened or canaliculate toward the base, 1-2.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Old sheaths persistent, at the base, hyaline ventrally, brown or black, truncate at the mouth.

BRACTS: Scariosus-setaceous, shorter than the inflorescence.

SPIKES: Several, ovoid-fusiform, sessile, 1-1.5 cm long; plants **dioecious** or rarely incompletely so. **Staminate:** Inflorescence of many aggregated spikes, rhomboidal to linear-oblong, rarely some spikes androgynous. **Pistillate:** Inflorescence with many spikes, suborbicular to oblong, stramineous at maturity, 1.5-5 cm long, 1-2.5 cm wide; perigynia appressed-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate with an acuminate to cuspidate tip, exceeding and covering the perigynia, stramineous with a green or pale 3-nerved center.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate-lanceolate, rounded or narrowly tapering to the stipitate base, plano-convex, sharp-edged and finely serrulate distally, firm-walled, smooth, stramineous to brownish throughout, 3.5-4.6 mm long, 1.3-1.8 mm wide. **Nerves:** Obscurely many-striated on both faces; marginal nerves well-developed. **Beaks:** Tapered, slender, serrulate, obliquely cleft, bidentulate, 1.75 mm long.

ACHENES: Obovate, lenticular, glossy brown, 1.4-1.9 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide, closely enveloped by the perigynia. **Stigmas:** 2, 4-6 mm long. Style and stigmas very long and conspicuous at flowering, sometimes persistent at maturity.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Common and widely distributed on dry to fairly wet, often alkaline places on open plains and foothills from **low to moderate elevations**. British Columbia to Manitoba and south from California to New Mexico. Found in appropriate habitats throughout the Intermountain area. **May-August**.

SIMILAR SPEICES: *C. praegracilis* is sometimes fully dioecious, but is distinguished by its loosely aggregated, elongate head compared to the ovoid-fusiform head of *C. douglasii*.