



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

Carex fuliginosa var. *misandra* O.F. Lang
Few-flowered sedge, shortleaved sedge

SYNONYMS: *C. misandra* R. Br.

HABIT: Densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, erect, nodding, 0.5-3 dm tall, much longer than the leaves, strongly **phyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Numerous, clustered near the base. **Blades:** Flat, thick, firm, 1-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin, reddish brown ventrally, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest leaflike, long-sheathing, shorter than the inflorescence; the upper reduced.

SPIKES: 3-4, nodding, linear-oblong, reddish brown, pedunculate, 1-1.5(2) cm long. **Terminal: Gynaecandrous** or sometimes wholly **pistillate** (rarely staminate). **Lateral: Pistillate**, approximate or the lower ones somewhat remote and often nodding; perigynia appressed-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate, wider, but shorter than the perigynia, thin, brown to black, the margins and apex narrowly white-hyaline.

PERIGYNIA: Mostly narrowly lanceolate, flattened-trigonous, tapering to a substipitate base, long-tapering toward the apex, ciliate-serrulate on the margins above the middle, membranous, dark brown or purplish black above, pale brown or greenish white below, 3.3-5.5 mm long, 0.9-1.3 mm wide. **Nerves:** Few toward the base on both surfaces, otherwise lacking except for the well-developed marginal nerves. **Beaks:** Poorly defined, tapered, slender; tip white-hyaline, obliquely cleft, bidentulate or bidentate.

ACHENES: Obovoid, triquetrous, striate, brown, 1.4-2 mm long, 0.75-1 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Infrequent and local in meadows and on open slopes **above timberline**. Circumboreal. In North America from Alaska to Quebec and Labrador south to Alberta. Apparently disjunct in Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado. **July-August**.