



*Carex hoodii*. (A) Inflorescences, (B) pistillate scales, (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B through D: Left—dorsal view; right—ventral view.

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***Carex hoodii* Boott**  
**Hood sedge**

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**HABIT:** Densely clustered from very short, stout, black, fibrillose roots.  
**Culms:** Slender, sharply triangular, 2-8 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, strongly **aphyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 2-3, borne on the lower part of the culm, but not clustered.  
**Blades:** Flat, 1.5-3.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, very thin ventrally, truncate at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** Lowest sheathless, rudimentary to 1.5 cm long, but shorter than the inflorescence; upper inconspicuous.

**SPIKES:** 4-8, **androgynous**, sessile, indistinguishable and closely to loosely aggregated into a dense, stiff, ovoid or oblong-cylindric green to brown inflorescence 1-2 cm long; perigynia spreading at maturity.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Ovate-triangular with an acute or cuspidate to acuminate tip, shorter and narrower than the perigynia, greenish to stramineous or coppery brown and scarious with a green midrib and hyaline margins.

**PERIGYNIA:** Narrowly elliptic to broadly elliptic-ovate, truncate at the base when fresh, abruptly tapered to a pointed base when dry, strongly plano-convex, serrulate along the margins to the middle or below, glossy, coppery brown with broad green sharp-edged margins, 3.5-5 mm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several inconspicuous or lacking on both surfaces; marginal nerves present, sometimes appearing ventromarginal. **Beaks:** Abruptly contracted, but more sharp-edged than wing-margined, serrulate, obliquely cleft, 0.7-1.5 mm long.

**ACHENES:** Quadrate-orbicular, lenticular, yellowish brown, 1.7-2.1 mm long, 1.3-1.7 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Common and widespread in the mountains from **foothills to near timberline** on open and thinly wooded slopes and in dry or moderately moist meadows and forest openings. British Columbia to California and east to Alberta, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and South Dakota. **May-August.**

**DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS:** The species is characterized by its glossy, coppery-brown perigynia with broad green margins.