



Carex lasiocarpa. (A) Pistillate scales, (B) perigynia, (C) achenes, (D) inflorescences. A through C: Left—dorsal view; right—ventral view.

Carex lasiocarpa Ehrh.
Wool-fruit sedge, slender sedge

HABIT: Stems arising singly or few together from long, creeping rhizomes.

Culms: Slender, obtusely triangular, smooth, wine red at the base, 3-12 dm tall, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 2-5, borne well above the base. **Blades:** Inrolled or folded at least distally, long-attenuate, light green, 1-1.5(2) mm wide. **Sheaths:** Yellowish-brown-tinged ventrally, concave at the mouth; the lower sheaths long, breaking and becoming strongly cross-filamentose.

BRACTS: Sheathless or nearly so, equaling or exceeding the inflorescence.

SPIKES: Several, greenish to brown or purplish brown, rather remote. **Staminate:** Usually 2; the terminal peduncled, 1.5-6 cm long; the lateral shorter and sessile, subtending the terminal. **Pistillate:** 1-3, oblong-cylindric, sessile or nearly so, 1-4.5 cm long, closely flowered; perigynia ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, somewhat ciliate at the tip, purplish brown with a broad 3-nerved green or pale center and narrow, dull-hyaline margins, narrower than the perigynia; the lower mucronate-awned and exceeding the perigynia; the upper acute and shorter.

PERIGYNIA: Ellipsoid to ovoid, somewhat inflated, round-tapering at the base, contracted at the apex, coriaceous, short-hairy, soft, dull brown to green, 2.8-5 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous, sometimes obscure. **Beaks:** Shallowly bidentate, usually not forking, 0.5-1.2 mm long.

ACHENES: Broadly obovoid, trigonous with blunt angles, yellowish brown to darker brown, 1.5-2.1 mm long, 1.5 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Locally common in swamps and wet meadows **at mid elevations** in Idaho, western Montana, and Utah. Alaska to Newfoundland, irregularly southward to Oregon and through Iowa to New Jersey. **May-September.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. lanuginosa*.