



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

***Carex leporinella* Mack.**
Sierra-hare sedge

HABIT: Densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Stiff, sharply triangular, smooth, 1-3 dm tall, equaling or exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-5(8), borne on the lower one-fourth of the culm. **Blades:** Involute, firm, 0.75-1.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Hyaline ventrally, usually concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest sheathless, setaceous-tipped, shorter than to about equaling the inflorescence; the upper reduced.

SPIKES: 3-10, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, greenish brown to brown, 6-12 mm long, individually distinct but aggregated into a stiff, erect, oblong, or ovoid-globose head 1.2-3.5 cm long, 4-8 mm wide; perigynia closely appressed.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Oblong-ovate with an acute or obtuse tip, commonly concealing the perigynia, reddish brown with a pale or greenish midrib and white-hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate to elliptic-ovate or linear-oblongate, plano-convex, widest about the middle, very narrowly wing-margined (wings typically curved toward the ventral surface) and serrulate above, brown to stramineous or partly greenish, especially the upper margins, 3.2-4.2 mm long, 0.8-1.2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Fine, numerous on both sides or few ventrally. **Beaks:** Tapered, 1 mm long; margins flattened, serrulate; tip very short, terete, smooth, obliquely cleft, deeply bidentate; apex and dorsal flap of the suture white-hyaline.

ACHENES: Obovoid-oblong, lenticular, substipitate, pale to medium brown, 1.4-2 mm long, 0.7-0.9 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Infrequent and local on open, rocky slopes and flats, and in meadows from **moderate to high elevations**. Southern Washington south through the White Mountains of California and eastward through northeastern Oregon, central Idaho, Utah, and western Wyoming. **July-September**.

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. ebenea*.