



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

***Carex livida* (Wahl.) Willd.**
Livid sedge, pale sedge

HABIT: Stems arising singly or few together from slender, creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, erect, triangular, 0.5-6 dm tall, longer or shorter than the leaves, **phyllopodic**, basal leaves persistent.

LEAVES: 6-12, mainly basal. **Blades:** Firm, narrow, often channeled, somewhat glaucous, 0.5-3.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Smooth, thin, membranous, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest leaflike with the sheath well-developed, equaling or exceeding the inflorescence; the upper reduced.

SPIKES: 2-4, green to yellow green, sessile or short-pedunculate. **Terminal: Staminate**, erect, linear, 0.7-3 cm long, 3-4 mm wide. **Lateral: Pistillate**, narrowly oblong, slender, loosely flowered, 1-2.5 cm long, 5 mm wide, approximate to somewhat remote; perigynia appressed.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate, obtuse to somewhat acute or mucronate at the tip, equaling or shorter and narrower than the perigynia but partially enveloping the perigynia bases, the center broad and pale green with white or brown hyaline-scarious margins.

PERIGYNIA: Narrowly rhombic or elliptic, obtusely trigonous with a broadly short-stipitate base when dry, broadly tapered at the apex, coriaceous, punctulate or papillate, glaucous-green, 2.2-4.5 mm long, 1.2-2.4 mm wide. **Nerves:** Lacking or obscure on both faces; marginally ribbed. **Beaks:** Absent or up to 0.2 mm long; orifice darkly rimmed, entire.

ACHENES: Broadly ovoid, trigonous, dark brown at maturity, 2-3.5 mm long, 0.9-1.8 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Peat bogs and swampy woods from **low to moderately high elevations**. Circumboreal. In North America from Alberta to Washington and east through northern Idaho, Montana, Utah (Uinta Mountains), and Wyoming to Michigan and New Jersey. **May-July**.