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

Carex luzulina Olney
Wingseed sedge, woodrush sedge

HABIT: Densely cespitose from short, slender rhizomes. **Culms:** Fibrillose and brownish-tinged at the base, 1.5-9 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 6-12, mostly crowded near the base, some cauline. **Blades:** Flat, thick, stiff, 3-9 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Hyaline ventrally, convex to concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Leaflike, long-sheathing, shorter than the inflorescence, usually u-shaped or truncate.

SPIKES: 3-6, erect, greenish brown or brown to reddish brown. **Terminal: Staminate** or **androgynous**, sessile or subsessile, 1-2 cm long, slightly exceeding the uppermost pistillate spike. **Lateral: Pistillate** or **androgynous**, oblong, 1-3 cm long, 6-9 mm wide; the upper crowded, sessile; the lower remote, long-pedunculate; perigynia spreading-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate, obtuse to acute or erose at the tip with the midvein often extending to the apex, shorter than the perigynia, glabrous to ciliate at the tip, reddish brown or purple with a paler center and hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Lanceolate with ciliate-serrulate margins, somewhat flattened-trigonous or compressed, glabrous or occasionally ciliate, puncticulate, light green to yellow green, often purplish-black-tinged, 3-4.5 mm long, 0.9-1.6 mm wide. **Nerves:** Few, obscure on both faces; present on the sharp-edged margins. **Beaks:** Ill-defined, tapering, ciliate, bidentulate, 0.5-1 mm long.

ACHENES: Obovoid, sharply trigonous with concave sides, slenderly stipitate, brown when mature, 1.3-2 mm long, 0.7-1.1 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Common in mountain meadows and bogs. **Foothills to timberline**. British Columbia south to California and east to Idaho, Nevada, Utah (Wasatch and Tushar Mountains), southwestern Montana, and western Wyoming. **June-August**.

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 8.