



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

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*Carex mariposana* Bailey  
Mariposa sedge

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**HABIT:** Densely caespitose from very short rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, more or less erect, 2.5-8 dm tall, **aphyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 3-5 on the lower one-fourth of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, firm, rather thick, 2-3 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, hyaline ventrally, smooth or cross-rugose, truncate at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** The lowest short and inconspicuous, sheathless, scarious-setaceous, much shorter than the spike, the upper reduced.

**SPIKES:** 4-12, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, greenish to reddish brown, closely or loosely aggregated into an oval or oblong head 1.7-3.5 cm long; lower spikes slightly to widely separate; perigynia appressed-ascending.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Ovate or lance-ovate with an acute to acuminate tip, narrower than the perigynia and shorter than to equaling them in length, reddish brown with hyaline-scarious margins and a paler midrib.

**PERIGYNIA:** Lance-ovate to ovate, plano-convex, tapering at the apex, wing-margined and serrulate above, membranous, deep green, becoming straw-colored or reddish brown, especially in the center, 3.4-5(5.3) mm long, 1.1-1.2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several, conspicuous on both faces. **Beaks:** Ill-defined, long and slender, tapering, smooth toward the tip, about one-third of the perigynium length, reddish brown; the tip terete, entire.

**ACHENES:** Elliptic to ovate, lenticular, shiny brown, 1.5-2 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 2.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Dry meadows and slopes in **montane and subalpine** areas. California to Nevada and north to Custer County, Idaho. **June-August**.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** See appendix, table 1.