



Carex microglochis. (A) Inflorescences, (B) pistillate scales, (C) perigynia, (D) achenes (left and center) and section of perigynium showing rachilla extending beyond the beak orifice (right). B and C: Left (and C center)—dorsal view; right—ventral view. D: Left—dorsal view; center—ventral view.

Carex microglochin Wahl.
Small-tipped sedge

HABIT: Culms arising singly or few together from slender, creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, erect, stiff, prominently ribbed, terete to semiterete, smooth, brownish at the base, exceeding the leaves, 2-25 cm tall, **phyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 4-8, clustered toward the base. **Blades:** Erect-ascending, involute, stiff, 0.3-0.6 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin, membranaceous ventrally, truncate at the mouth.

BRACTS: None.

SPIKES: Solitary, **androgynous**, yellowish brown to golden brown when mature, 7-15 mm long, 6-9 mm wide, few-flowered; perigynia ascending but soon deflexed and easily detached.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Oblong to ovate-triangular with an acute to obtuse tip, wider but much shorter than the perigynia, light chestnut brown with a lighter center, scarious or with hyaline margins, very early deciduous.

PERIGYNIA: Linear-lanceolate, suborbicular in cross section, obliquely substipitate and round-truncated at the base, spongy, smooth, shiny, membranaceous, light green to brownish green or straw-colored, 3-5 mm long, 0.8-1 mm wide. **Nerves:** Many-striated on both surfaces. **Beaks:** Not well differentiated from the body, smooth, long tapering; the orifice prominently hyaline, obliquely truncate, filled with the projecting rachilla.

ACHENES: Narrowly oblong-ovoid, trigonous with somewhat rounded angles, yellowish brown to brownish, 2.5 mm long, 0.5-0.75 mm wide, abruptly contracted into and continuous with the long, slender, straight, barely exerted style; rachilla longer than the achene. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Rare and local in moist, sunny, usually calcareous boggy habitats in meadows of **alpine zones**. Alaska to Quebec and Greenland and south to western Montana, Utah, and Colorado. **June-July**.