



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

***Carex obtusata* Liljeblad**
Obtuse sedge, blunt sedge

HABIT: Scattered on elongate, dark, scaly, tough, but mostly slender rhizomes. **Culms:** 1-3 together, slender, triangular, rough, reddish to reddish brown at the base, 0.5-2 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Several, crowded near ground level. **Blades:** Stiff, flat or channeled, 0.5-1.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, hyaline, somewhat thickened and truncate at the mouth; older sheaths with reddish brown spots.

BRACTS: None.

SPIKES: Solitary, **androgynous**, stramineous to chestnut, 5-15 mm long, 3-6 mm wide; **staminate** portion well-developed; perigynia 1-10, spreading-ascending at maturity.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate to ovate-lanceolate with a sharply acute or cuspidate tip, shorter to longer than the perigynia, thin, pale brown to chestnut with hyaline margins and often paler midvein.

PERIGYNIA: Oblong-obovoid (suborbicular-triangular in cross section), plump, thick-walled, coriaceous, glossy, dark chestnut or blackish brown, 3-4 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous, prominent on both surfaces. **Beaks:** Contracted, smooth, 0.5-1 mm long; tip hyaline, obliquely cleft, bidentate.

ACHENES: Oblong-obovoid to orbicular, trigonous, yellowish to creamy brown, 1.75 mm long, 1 mm wide; the rachilla well-developed, often with a flattened terminal appendage. **Stigmas:** 3, usually persistent.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Infrequent to locally common in open, fairly dry, often grassy places. **Plains and foothills to high elevations** in the mountains. Yukon and Manitoba south to Utah, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico and across the plains to South Dakota, Nebraska, and Minnesota. **June-August.**