



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

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*Carex petasata* Dewey  
Liddon sedge

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**HABIT:** Tufted, usually without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Erect, stiff, smooth, 3-9 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 2-5. **Blades:** Flat, firm, 2-4(5) mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, white-hyaline ventrally, concave or truncate at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** Short and inconspicuous, sheathless, setaceous, brownish-scarious.

**SPIKES:** 3-6, **gynaecandrous**, ascending, sessile, green becoming stramineous, 9-18 mm long, loosely aggregated into an erect head 2-5 cm long and 1-1.5 cm wide; the terminal spike often strongly clavate; the first two internodes mostly 3-9 mm long; perigynia loosely appressed-ascending to appressed, giving the ovate spike a smooth outline.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Ovate, usually as long and as wide as the perigynia and largely concealing them, stramineous or light reddish brown with a paler center and broad, silvery white-hyaline margins.

**PERIGYNIA:** Oblong-lanceolate, plano-convex or concavo-convex, widest below the middle, wing-margined, the margins serrulate to below the middle, membranous, stramineous or pale green to brownish green, 5.8-8 mm long, 1.5-2.25 mm wide. **Nerves:** Slender, usually numerous on both sides. **Beaks:** Terete, serrulate below, smooth above, reddish brown, hyaline-tipped, shallowly and obliquely cleft.

**ACHENES:** Oblong, lenticular, glossy, brown, 2.2-3 mm long, (1.1)1.3-1.8 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Frequent to common on open slopes of grasslands or sagebrush-grasslands, sometimes in wet or dry meadows and in open woods from **plains to fairly high elevations** in the mountains. British Columbia through Saskatchewan, south to Oregon, California (where rare), Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and Arizona. **June-August.**

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** See appendix, table 10.