



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

Carex phaeocephala Piper
Dunhead sedge, hare sedge, mountain hare sedge

HABIT: Cespitose from compactly matted roots. **Culms:** Slender, stiff, 0.5-3(4) dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-6, clustered near the base of the culm. **Blades:** Stiff, flat, channeled or folded, 0.5-2.5(3) mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, hyaline, concave to convex at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest inconspicuous, sheathless, awn-tipped, shorter than the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 3-7, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, green, becoming brown or reddish brown, 7-14 mm long, borne in a stiff and compact or slightly loose head mostly 1-3.5 cm long and 0.5-1.2 cm wide; the first internode up to 10 mm long, the second 2-6 mm long; perigynia appressed to ascending-spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate with an acute tip, as long and as wide as the perigynia and largely concealing them except for the beak tips, brownish black to reddish brown with a lighter center and broad hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Oblong to broadly ovate, more or less flat to plano-convex or concavo-convex, slightly tapered toward the blunt base, often widest near the center, tapering to the apex, **winged** to the base and serrulate above, subcoriaceous, tan or brown to brownish-black, commonly with greener bluish-tinged margins, 3.5-6 mm long, 1.2-2.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several dorsally, lacking or sometimes evident ventrally. **Beaks:** Tapering, usually terete and slender, serrulate below, nearly smooth above, dark brown, white-hyaline at the tip, obliquely cleft.

ACHENES: Oblong to oblong-obovoid, lenticular to plano-convex or concavo-convex, nearly sessile or long-stipitate, greenish brown, becoming brown at maturity, 1.5-2.3 mm long, 0.85-1.3 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Frequent to common in open, moist to dry, often rocky places at **high altitudes** in the mountains. British Columbia and Alberta south to California and Colorado. Occurs in appropriate habitats throughout the Intermountain region. **July-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 10.