



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

***Carex praeceptorum* Mack.**
Early sedge, teacher sedge

HABIT: Cespitose with small clumps developing from short rhizomes. **Culms:** Sharply triangular, 1-3 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Several, clustered toward the base. **Blades:** Canaliculate, light green, 1.2-2.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, hyaline ventrally, truncate to shallowly concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Inconspicuous, sheathless, largely hyaline-scarious, sometimes shortly awn-tipped.

SPIKES: 4-6, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, short, 5-12 mm long, 2.5-4 mm wide, green, becoming golden brown, readily distinguishable but closely aggregated into an elongate to ovoid or oblong-ovoid head 1-2.5 cm long; perigynia 9-20, ascending, slightly spreading at maturity.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate, slightly shorter than the perigynia, brown or chestnut-tinged with broad pale or green center and hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate, plano-convex, spongy-thickened from the base to upper body, abruptly contracted at the apex, substipitate, white-punctate or rough-textured, yellowish brown to brownish green, often paler than the scale but the exposed parts darker, 1.5-2.5 mm long, 1-1.2 mm wide.

Nerves: Several on both sides, slightly raised and often darker than the body. **Beaks:** Sparingly serrulate, entire at the tip, 0.25-0.5 mm long; dorsal suture short, lighter to darker than the surrounding tissue, commonly extending the length of the beak apiculation.

ACHENES: Broadly ovate, lenticular, reddish to yellowish brown, 1.25-1.5 mm long, 0.8-1 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Infrequent in wet meadows, alpine bogs, and boggy banks of alpine streams or ponds at **high elevations**. Washington south to Oregon and California and east across central Idaho, Nevada (Elko County), Utah, northwestern Wyoming, and Colorado. **July-August**.

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 5.