



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

Carex scirpoidea Michx. var. *pseudoscirpoidea* (Rydb.) Cronq.
Canada single-spike sedge, downy sedge

HABIT: Culms arising singly or few together from stout, woody, branching, creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Stiff, triangular, purplish red at the base, 1-4(8) dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **phyllopodic to aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 2-4, clustered near the base. **Blades:** Mostly flat, firm, 1-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, slightly filamentose, hyaline and puberulent ventrally, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: None or inconspicuous to short-prolonged, narrow, dark-auricled, and somewhat removed from the inflorescence.

SPIKES: Usually solitary, erect, plants **dioecious**, pistillate and staminate spikes similar in size, shape, and color. **Terminal:** Cylindric, 1.5-4 cm long, 3-6 mm thick, densely flowered. **Lateral:** Sometimes 1-2 at the base of the main spike on pistillate plants, small, sessile; perigynia erect-appressed.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Obovate-oblong with an obtuse to broadly acute tip, deep brown to black with a pale midrib and hyaline margins, puberulent and fringed-ciliate along the upper margins, shorter to longer and wider than the perigynia.

PERIGYNIA: Ovoid or oblong-obovoid, tapering to the base, rounded tapering at the apex, short-hairy, especially the upper half, reddish purplish brown, lighter toward the base, 2-3.5 mm long, 1-1.7 mm wide. **Nerves:** Few at the base, obscure. **Beaks:** Slender, terete, 0.25 mm long; the tip somewhat hyaline-erose or bidentulate.

ACHENES: Oblong-ovate or obovoid, sharply trigonous to slightly triquetrous, brownish yellow, substipitate, 1.5-2.1 mm long, 0.75-1 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Wet to dry meadows, streambanks, and open, rocky slopes. **High elevations.** In North America from Alaska to Labrador, south to California, Nevada, southern Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, and Colorado and east to Michigan and New York. **June-August.**