



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

Carex specifica Bailey
Specific sedge

HABIT: Loosely caespitose from short rhizomes. **Culms:** Erect, somewhat smooth, exceeding the leaves, 3-8.5 dm tall, **aphyllopodic to phyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Borne on the lower one-third of the culm. **Blades:** Flat or channeled, 2-5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** More or less firm and green-ribbed ventrally, or narrowly hyalined, concave to convex at the mouth, sometimes prolonged above the collar.

BRACTS: Short and inconspicuous; the lowest sometimes long-awned.

SPIKES: Several, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, golden brown to brown at maturity, individual spikes distinguishable, but aggregated into an oblong or roundish head 1.5-4 cm long; the lowest spike somewhat removed; perigynia appressed-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Lanceolate-ovate with the tip acute to slightly acuminate, scarcely shorter and narrower to nearly as wide as the perigynia, reddish to golden brown or brown with usually a lighter midvein and white-hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Narrowly to broadly ovate or lanceolate, plano-convex broadly to narrowly tapering at the base, gradually tapering at the apex, **wing-margined**, serrulate from the middle upward, green to gold, sometimes reddish brown toward the margins which usually remain green, 4.8-7 mm long, 1.2-2.3 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous on both surfaces or obscure ventrally. **Beaks:** Ill-defined, reddish-tinged, narrowly winged except the last 0.3 mm; tip smooth and terete, slightly hyaline, obliquely cleft.

ACHENES: Broadly oblong, lenticular, substipitate, brown, 1.7-2.3 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Dry meadows and open forest at **middle to high elevations**. In the Sierra Nevada Mountains from Tulare County, California to western Nevada. **June-August**.

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. multicosata*.