



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

***Carex straminiformis* Bailey**
Mount Shasta sedge, Shasta sedge

HABIT: Densely tufted from short, woody roots. **Culms:** Firm, stout, often incurved, 1-5 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-7, crowded on the lower one-fourth of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, thick, 2-3.5(4) mm wide. **Sheaths:** Hyaline, concave to convex at the mouth.

BRACTS: Sheathless, short and inconspicuous.

SPIKES: 3-10, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, greenish brown to chestnut, 1.2 cm long or less, closely aggregated into an ovate or roundish head 1.3-3.2 cm long and 12-20 mm thick; perigynia ascending-spreading; beaks conspicuous.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate-lanceolate with an acute tip, shorter and narrower than the perigynia, reddish chestnut to brownish black with a pale or green midrib and whitish margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate to broadly ovate, flattened, concavo-convex (usually quite thin), strongly winged and usually wrinkle-margined to the base, membranous, light green to stramineous, 4.1-5.8 mm long, 1.7-3.4 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous dorsally, absent or nearly so ventrally. **Beaks:** Abruptly narrowed, flattened, serrulate more or less to the top, bidentate, about a third the length of body.

ACHENES: Broadly oval, lenticular, nearly sessile, brown, 1.3-2.4 mm long, 1-1.6 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: On open slopes, often near persistent snowbanks at **high altitudes**, near or above timberline. Occurs irregularly from southern Washington to the White Mountains of California and Nevada. Disjunct in central Idaho and Utah (Uinta and Wasatch Mountains). **June-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. proposita*.