



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

Carex vulpinoidea Michx.

Fox sedge

HABIT: Stems clustered, arising from stout rhizomes. **Culms:** Stiff, sharply triangular, roughened on the angles above, 2-10 dm tall, shorter than the leaves, slightly **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Scattered along the lower one-half of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, 2-5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Ventral side membranous, sparsely red-dotted or plain and usually cross-rugose on older sheaths, truncate to slightly convex at the mouth.

BRACTS: Lowest sheathless, setaceous-prolonged, up to 5 cm long, shorter than or occasionally exceeding the inflorescence; upper reduced.

SPIKES: Numerous, **androgynous**, small, sessile, green becoming brown or ashy brown, few-flowered, densely aggregated into a compound, linear cylindric head 2-15 cm long and up to 1-2 cm thick; perigynia spreading at maturity.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate with the 3-nerved center terminating in a long, rough or glabrous awn, equaling or shorter and narrower than the perigynia, brownish or stramineous with hyaline-scarious margins.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly ovate to ovate-lanceolate, plano-convex or flattened, sharp-edged, spongy-margined to the rounded base, serrulate distally along the margins, yellowish green to brown or stramineous, greenish distally and toward the thin-edged or narrowly winged upper margins, 1.7-3 mm long, 1-1.2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Obscurely 3 or few and short mid-dorsally, absent ventrally. **Beaks:** Tapered gradually or abruptly, flattened, serrulate, bidentate, 0.7-1.8 mm long.

ACHENES: Orbicular-ovate, lenticular, tapering at the base, 1.2-1.6 mm long, 0.8-1 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: In marshes, standing water, ditches, and other wet places in the **foothills and lowlands**. British Columbia to Newfoundland, south to northern California, Arizona, Colorado, and Florida. In Idaho along the northern margin of the Snake River Plain. **May-August.**