



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

***Carex atherodes* Sprengel**
Awned sedge, slough sedge

HABIT: Loosely cespitose from coarse, deep-seated, creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Sharply triangular, reddish-tinged at the base, 3-15 dm tall, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Few to several to a culm, not clustered at the base. **Blades:** Thin, flat, strongly septate-nodulose, glabrous above, sparsely hairy toward the base, dull green, 3-12 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Hairy, brownish- or reddish-tinged, deeply concave at the mouth; basal sheath becoming filamentose at maturity.

BRACTS: Lower leaflike, sheathing, exceeding the inflorescence; upper reduced, not sheathing.

SPIKES: Several. **Upper:** 2-6, **staminate**, erect, linear, sessile or short-pedunculate, 2-6(10) cm long, 3-5 mm wide; the upper contiguous; the lower remote, some may have a few perigynia at the base. **Lower:** 2-4, **pistillate**, erect, cylindric, nearly sessile, closely flowered, remote, 2-12 cm long, 8-15 mm wide; upper often staminate at the apex; perigynia ascending-spreading at maturity.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Lanceolate to lance-ovate, abruptly rough-areolate, short-ciliate, from shorter to longer than the perigynia, dull reddish brown or stramineous with a 3-nerved green center and hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Lanceolate to lance-ovate, rounded at the short-stipitate base, turgid-inflated below, more flattened at the beak, firm, subcoriaceous, glabrous, pale greenish to stramineous, 7-10 mm long, 1.7-2.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** 12-20 on each surface, conspicuous; prominent marginal nerves lacking. **Beaks:** Somewhat flattened, 1.2-3 mm long, smoothly tapered with long, slender, divergent teeth.

ACHENES: Obovoid, rounded above, tapering toward the base, trigonous with blunt angles, brown, 2-3.2 mm long, 1.2-1.5 mm wide, continuous with the straight or slightly flexuous, persistent, bony style. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Marshes, edges of lakes and rivers in shallow to rather deep water from **lowlands to high elevations** in the mountains. Circumboreal. In North America from Yukon to Ontario and south to Oregon, California, southern Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Indiana, Missouri, and New York. **June-September.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: *C. atherodes*—Spikes longer (staminate 2-6[10] cm long; pistillate 2-12 cm long), not strictly unisexual; perigynia glabrous, longer (7-10 mm long); beaks tapering with equal, diverging teeth. *C. sheldonii*—Spikes shorter (staminate 2-3.5 cm long; pistillate 2-6 cm long), strictly unisexual; perigynia hairy, shorter (5-6 [8] mm long); beak strongly tapering with unequal teeth that are not divergent.