



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

Carex bipartita All.
Two-parted sedge, two-tipped sedge

HABIT: Loosely cespitose from short rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, 5-30 cm tall, exceeding the leaves, slightly **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Clustered toward the base. **Blades:** Flat with revolute margins, 1-2.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, hyaline ventrally, truncate at the mouth.

BRACTS: Inconspicuous, short, sheathless, largely hyaline-scarious, sometimes shortly awn-tipped.

SPIKES: 1-4, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, distinct, reddish brown, 4-6 mm long, aggregated into an oblong or ovoid head, 6-15 mm long; perigynia (10)15-30, closely ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Oblong-ovate with an obtuse tip, about equaling and largely concealing the perigynia, chestnut brown or reddish-tinged with yellowish-brown centers and wide, white-hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Elliptic to obovate, gradually narrowed at the apex, plano-convex or almost flat, sometimes thin-margined, substipitate, minutely rough-textured, yellowish brown, largely paler than the scale, 2-3 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Fine or obscure on both faces. **Beaks:** Smooth, hyaline-tipped, 0.5 mm long; dorsal suture evident, extending well into the distal portion of the perigynium.

ACHENES: Oval or obovate, lenticular, sessile, 1.2-1.5 mm long, 0.85 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Wet meadows and swamps at **high elevations**. Circumboreal. In North America from British Columbia east across Alberta to Quebec and south through Utah (Uinta Mountains), northern Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. **July-August.**