



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

Carex dioica L.
Bog sedge, yellow bog sedge

SYNONYM: *C. gynocrates* Wormskj. ex Drejer.

HABIT: Culms arising singly from long, slender rhizomes. **Culms:** Filiform, terete, stiff, smooth, 2-30 cm tall, exceeding the leaves, **phyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Loosely clustered toward the base. **Blades:** Narrowly involute, 3-15 cm long, 0.4-0.9 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin and white-hyaline ventrally when young, brown when mature, shallowly to deeply concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: None.

SPIKES: Solitary, chestnut brown, varying from **androgynous** to almost wholly staminate or almost wholly pistillate, 5-15 mm long; staminate portion paler, slender; perigynia crowded, widely spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Scarios or almost hyaline, broadly ovate with an obtuse tip, usually shorter and wider than the perigynia, persistent, light reddish brown to brown.

PERIGYNIA: Slenderly ovoid, thick-walled with especially the lower portion spongy-thickened, biconvex at maturity, plump, coriaceous, glossy, short-stipitate, the stipe apparent when dry, yellowish to brownish black or chestnut brown, 2.5-4 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous, conspicuously reaching the base of the beak dorsally, obscure or conspicuous ventrally; marginal nerves not prominent. **Beaks:** Abruptly contracted, sparingly serrulate, obliquely cleft and recurved, 0.5 mm long.

ACHENES: Broadly obovate or ovate, lenticular, glossy, yellowish brown, 1.5-2 mm long, 1.2-1.5 mm wide; rachilla obsolete. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Sphagnum bogs and wet, marshy places. Rare and restricted to **middle and upper elevations** in the mountains. Circumboreal. In North America from Washington (Okanogan County) to northeastern Oregon (Wallowa Mountains), Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and east to Pennsylvania. **July-August.**