



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

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*Carex egglestonii* Mack.

Eggleston sedge

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**HABIT:** Densely tufted from short, woody rhizomes. **Culms:** Stiffly erect, 1.5-6 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, slightly **aphyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 4-6, crowded on the lower one-third of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, thick, 2-6 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Strongly white-hyaline ventrally, truncate to concave at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** Lowest sheathless, setaceous, prolonged, but shorter than the inflorescence, sometimes short and inconspicuous; upper inconspicuous.

**SPIKES:** 3-6, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, broadly oblong, 9-15 mm long, distinguishable, but densely aggregated into an ovoid blackish green to golden brown head 18-25 mm long; perigynia appressed-ascending, tips and margins exposed.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Ovate-lanceolate with an acute to short-acuminate tip, shorter and narrower than the perigynia, chestnut brown with a lighter midvein, white-hyaline along the narrow and somewhat stiff margins.

**PERIGYNIA:** Ovate, flattened concavo-convex, thin, broadly **winged** to the rounded base with the margins somewhat finely wrinkled and serrulate to below the middle, tapering at the apex, membranaceous, olive green to brownish, coppery-tinged toward the margins, 5.5-7.2 mm long, 2.6-3.8 mm wide. **Nerves:** Obscure and numerous on both sides, present on the dorsal side only or lacking except for a pair of prominent, inframarginal nerves delimiting the wing-margin. **Beaks:** Flat with winged, serrulate margins, obliquely cleft, bidentate, 1.5 mm long.

**ACHENES:** Obovoid-oblong, lenticular, rounded to truncate distally, golden brown at maturity, substipitate, 1.9-2.3 mm long, 1-2 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Dry meadows and open slopes at **high elevations** in the mountains. In the southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau from Utah to southern Wyoming and Colorado. **June-August.**