



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

Carex elynoides Holm
Blackroot sedge, kobresia-like sedge

HABIT: Dwarfed, densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Very slender, wiry, 1.5 dm tall, about equaling the leaves, old leaf bases persistent.

LEAVES: Mostly basal. **Blades:** Acicular, stiff and wiry, involute, glabrous or with scaberulous margins, bright green, 0.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin, hyaline ventrally, shallowly concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: None.

SPIKES: Solitary, **androgynous**, erect, linear, tan to reddish brown, 10-15 mm long; perigynia 4-12, erect-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Very broad, tending to wrap around the spike rachis, acute to broadly rounded above or the lowest ones mucronate-awned, wider and equaling to longer than the perigynia and completely concealing them, light to dark brown with a paler midvein and broad white-hyaline tip and margins.

PERIGYNIA: Obpyramidal or ellipsoid, 3-angled, membranous, dark greenish-tinged or brown above, paler below, 2.5-4.5 mm long, 1.8-2.2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Obscurely 2-ribbed. **Beaks:** Slender, cylindrical, abruptly narrowed, inconspicuously short-hairy or glabrous, truncately cut, hyaline at the tip, 0.4-1 mm long.

ACHENES: Oblong-obovoid, sharply trigonous, brown to black at maturity, 1.5-2 mm long, 1.2-2 mm wide; rachilla well-developed. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Open dry slopes at **high elevations** in the mountains. Nevada (White Pine and Elko Counties) eastward across Idaho, Utah, southwestern Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. **July-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 7.