



*Carex multicaulis*. (A) Perigynia subtended by pistillate scales, (B) inflorescences.

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***Carex multicaulis* Bailey**  
**Many-stemmed sedge**

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**HABIT:** Loosely to densely caespitose in rather small tufts; rhizomes short or prolonged. **Culms:** Numerous, terete or obtusely triangular, 1.5-6 dm tall, mostly exceeding the leaves, very rarely the leaves elongated and surpassing the culms, **aphyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 1-2, near the base. **Blades:** Folded or involute, 1-2 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin hyaline and ribbed ventrally, truncate to shallowly concave at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** None, the lowest pistillate scale is bractlike.

**SPIKES:** Solitary, **androgynous**, elongate, green becoming stramineous or brown; staminate part linear and compact, 1-2.5 cm long; pistillate part with 1-6 appressed-ascending perigynia.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Persistent, lowest leaf like, surpassing the inflorescence, upper ones oblong-obovate with a green center and white-hyaline margins, progressively reduced upward; uppermost scales shorter than or equaling the perigynia.

**PERIGYNIA:** Oblong-ovate or ellipsoid, triangular, short-stipitate, pale greenish or brown, 5-8 mm long, 2.2-2.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Many, faintly obscure on both surfaces or lacking; present on the margins. **Beaks:** Obsolete or short, abruptly contracted, minutely ciliate.

**ACHENES:** Obpyramidal, trigonous, 4-6 mm long, 2.1-2.3 mm wide, filling the perigynium and commonly exerted at the tip; the rachilla persistent. **Stigmas:** 3.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Common on dry soils of dense or open forests. **Low to moderate elevations.** From the Cascade Mountains and Klamath region of southern Oregon through the coast ranges and Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. Apparently isolated in northeastern Nevada. **April-June.**

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** See *C. geyeri*.