



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

---

*Carex nardina* Fries  
Spikenard sedge

---

**SYNONYM:** *C. hepburnii* Boott.

**HABIT:** Densely caespitose without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, terete, smooth and wiry, 1-1.5 dm high, shorter to longer than the leaves, **phyllopodic**, old leaf sheaths persistent, forming a fasciculate base.

**LEAVES:** Few, mostly basal. **Blades:** Very slender, involute, stiff and wirelike, 0.25-0.5 mm wide, 1-10 cm long. **Sheaths:** Abruptly contracted into the blade, thin, hyaline, truncate at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** None.

**SPIKES:** Solitary, **androgynous**, oblong to ovoid, stramineous to reddish brown, 1.5 cm long, 2-4 mm wide; perigynia 5-15, erect-appressed.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Ovate to obovate or orbicular with an acute to obtuse or rounded tip, the lower ones occasionally mucronate-awned, brown with a paler midvein and hyaline margins, equaling the perigynia in both width and length.

**PERIGYNIA:** Lanceolate to oblong-obovate, biconvex or plano-convex, tapering to the base, round-tapering or abruptly contracted at the apex, sharply angled along the margins, obscurely serrulate or glabrous distally, coriaceous, stramineous, reddish toward the apex, 3-4.5 mm long, 1.25-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Lacking or obscure to prominent and numerous on both surfaces. **Beaks:** Up to 0.8 mm long, serrulate, hyaline-tipped, emarginate or obliquely cleft.

**ACHENES:** Lenticular or trigonous, dark dull brown at maturity, 1.6-2 mm long, 1-1.2 mm wide; rachilla well-developed. **Stigmas:** 2 or 3.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Dry alpine summits, cliff crevices, talus, and open dry slopes at **high elevations**. Circumboreal. In North America extending south to Washington, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. **June-August.**

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** See appendix, table 7.