



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

Carex nervina Bailey
Nerved sedge

HABIT: Cespitose, often forming large clumps from short rhizomes.

Culms: Sharply angled, sometimes winged, spongy when fresh, 4-8 dm tall, equaling or exceeding the leaves, slightly **phyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 4-6, not clustered at the base. **Blades:** Flat, 3.5-5 mm wide.

Sheaths: Hyaline, smooth or prominently ribbed ventrally, green- and white-mottled dorsally, truncate or U-shaped with a thick rim at the mouth.

BRACTS: Short and inconspicuous.

SPIKES: Several, **androgynous**, greenish brown or brown to reddish-tinged, densely aggregated into an oblong or oblong-ovoid head 1.5-3 cm long and 6-18 mm wide, indistinguishable except for the lower ones which are sometimes separate; perigynia widely spreading at maturity.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate with an obtuse to acute tip, equaling or shorter than the perigynia and about as wide, thin, brownish with pronounced white-hyaline margins and a pale center.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly lanceolate to narrowly ovate, plano-convex, widest at the truncate base, distended by spongy tissue at maturity, tapered above and contracted at the apex, sharp-margined, substipitate, smooth, green to shiny brown, 2.8-4.5 mm long, 1-1.8 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous, conspicuous. **Beaks:** Slender, slightly serrulate, obliquely cleft, 0.8-1.7 mm long.

ACHENES: Ovate, lenticular, abruptly tapered at the base, rounded above, medium brown, 1.2-1.8 mm long, 1-1.3 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: In moist to wet places along streams and in meadows at **moderate elevations**. From the Cascade Mountains through southern Oregon to northern California and western Nevada. **June-August**.

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 9.