



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

***Carex praticola* Rydb.**
Meadow sedge

HABIT: Densely or loosely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, slightly flexuous, 2-9.5 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 2-4, borne on the lower part of the culm but not closely clustered. **Blades:** Flat, 1-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, thin, membranous or hyaline ventrally, concave or truncate at the mouth.

BRACTS: Lowest sheathless, setaceous-prolonged, green to brown, shorter than the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 2-7, **gynaecandrous**, often slender-based, sessile, approximate, blackish green becoming brown, 7-18 mm long; the loose head flexuous or nodding; the two lowest internodes each 4-15 mm long; perigynia appressed to ascending-spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Narrowly ovate, nearly as long and wide as the perigynia and concealing them, stramineous or dull reddish brown with a green or lighter center and silvery-white-hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate-lanceolate, concavo-convex or plano-convex, tapered to the base, gradually tapering at the apex, wing-margined and serrulate to the base, semitranslucent, rather glossy, pale green to stramineous or brownish, (3.7)4.3-6.5 mm long, 1.3-2.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Evident and fine dorsally, lacking or nearly so ventrally. **Beaks:** Ill-defined, gradually tapering, one-third to one-half the length of the body, commonly brown, serrulate, the distal 0.5 mm or more slender and entire, obliquely cleft.

ACHENES: Ovoid, lenticular, substipitate, yellow brown, 1.5-2.7 mm long, (0.9)1.2-2 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Infrequent, but sometimes locally plentiful in moist or wet meadows, along streambanks, and in moist, open woods. **Low to moderate elevations.** In North America from Alaska to Labrador and south to northeastern Oregon, northwestern California, central and southeastern Idaho, northeastern Utah, Colorado, and North Dakota. **June-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. aenea*.