



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

***Carex proposita* Mack.**
Smoky Mountain sedge

HABIT: Densely caespitose without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, stiff, sharply triangular and roughened above, 1-3.5 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 2-4(5), borne on the lower part of the culm. **Blades:** Narrow and firm, channeled and trigonous distally, 0.5-2.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, truncate at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest prolonged, but shorter than the inflorescence; the upper inconspicuous.

SPIKES: 2-6, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, brown to golden brown; individual spikes distinguishable, but aggregated into an ovoid or oblong head 1.5-3 cm long and 7-18 mm wide; perigynia appressed-ascending to ascending-spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Oblong-ovate to lanceolate with an obtuse or acute tip, shorter and much narrower than the perigynia, gold or tan to dark brown with narrow, hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly ovate to suborbicular, thin, membranous, flat, rounded to slightly tapered at the base, tapering or abruptly contracted at the apex, **wing**-margined and serrulate upward from below the middle, greenish with lighter or gold to coppery center toward the base, 3.5-5.8(6.3) mm long, 1.7-3.1 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous, but obscure dorsally, absent ventrally; inframarginal nerves delimiting the wing from the cavity. **Beaks:** Dark brown, slender, terete, entire or bidentate, 1 mm long.

ACHENES: Oblong-ovoid, lenticular, brownish yellow, 1.4-2.1 mm long, 0.75-1.3 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Dry, open, rocky slopes and ridges, often on talus. **High elevations.** Washington (Wenatchee Mountains), California (Sierra Nevada Mountains), and central Idaho. **July-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: *C. proposita*—Perigynium broadest at the middle; beak tip terete and more or less smooth; blades channeled. *C. stramineiformis*—Perigynium broadest below the middle; beak tip more or less flat and ciliate-serrulate; blades flat.