



Carex rossii. (A) Inflorescences, (B) pistillate scales (scale on left subtends a perigynium), (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B through D: Left—dorsal view; right—ventral view.

Carex rossii Boott
Ross sedge

HABIT: Loosely to densely caespitose from very short to somewhat prolonged rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, sharply triangular, scabrous, 0.5-4 dm tall, shorter to longer than the leaves, more or less **aphyllopodic**, usually with persistent reddish sheaths at the base.

LEAVES: Clustered toward the base. **Blades:** Thin, firm to rather lax, flat with slightly revolute margins, glabrous or slightly scabrous, 1-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Hyaline and slightly filamentose ventrally, concave or truncate at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest leaflike, mostly sheathless, surpassing the inflorescence; the upper leaflike but reduced.

SPIKES: 2-6, short and slender, green to greenish and purple-tinged. **Terminal: Staminate**, linear, sessile or short-peduncled, 3-10 mm long, 1-2.5 mm wide. **Lateral: Pistillate**, few-flowered; the upper approximate, sessile or short-peduncled; the lower widely separate, arising from near the culm base on slender, elongate peduncles; perigynia ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate with an acute to cuspidate or awned tip, appressed, shorter than the perigynia, usually with a greenish center and midrib and reddish brown margins.

PERIGYNIA: Subglobose with the base short and stipelike or obovoid and narrowed to the base, abruptly contracted above, finely puberulent, usually greenish but slightly reddish brown above, 2.4-5 mm long, 1-2.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Marginal nerves prominent, otherwise none. **Beaks:** Conic, ciliate-serrulate, deeply and obliquely cleft, 1.0-1.7 mm long.

ACHENES: Slightly obovoid to ovoid, trigonous with convex sides, yellowish green to brown when mature, 1.3-2.4 mm long, 1-1.7 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Occasional to frequent in dry to moderately moist sites in areas that will support coniferous forests and in adjacent meadows and prairies. **Near sea level to above timberline.** Yukon south to California and eastward to Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, Colorado, and irregularly east and north to Michigan. **June-July.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 6.