

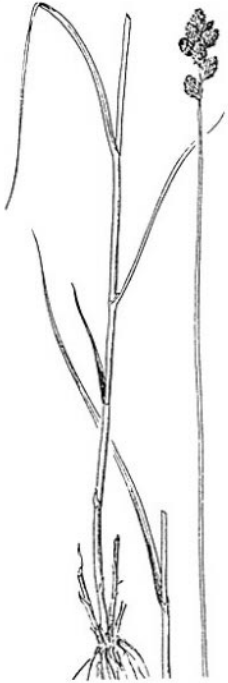
A



B

C

D



0 1mm

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

Carex scoparia Schkuhr
Pointed-broom sedge, swamp sedge

HABIT: Densely caespitose from short rhizomes. **Culms:** Sharply triangular, the angles rough below the inflorescence, 1.5-10 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 2-6, borne on the lower part of the culm but not clustered. **Blades:** Flat or canaliculate, yellowish green, 1-3 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin or green-ribbed ventrally, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest sometimes setaceous-prolonged, shorter to longer than the spike, sheathless; the upper reduced and inconspicuous.

SPIKES: 3-12, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, oblong-ovoid, green, becoming stramineous or brown, individual spikes distinct, 8-14 mm long, 3-5 mm wide, aggregated into an oblong, linear-oblong or globose head 2-4 cm long; perigynia erect to ascending with appressed to erect beaks.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Lanceolate, ovate or oblong-ovate, tapering to a firm, often short awn-pointed tip, much narrower and shorter than the perigynia, light brown with a green center and narrow, white-hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Lanceolate to narrowly ovate-lanceolate, flat, thin and scale-like, slightly tapering to the base and gradually tapering to the apex, widest just below the middle, broadly and thinly **wing**-margined (almost hyaline) to the base, serrulate to below the middle, pale green to stramineous, 4-7 mm long, 1.2-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several on both sides, usually faint ventrally. **Beaks:** Ill-defined, flat, serrulate, obliquely cleft, shallowly bidentate.

ACHENES: Ovate-oblong, lenticular, brown, short-stipitate, 1.3-1.8 mm long, 0.5-0.9 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Occasional. In moist to swampy places at **low elevations**. British Columbia to Newfoundland, south to Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah (Kane County), Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico and east to Arkansas and Florida. **July-August**.

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. bebbii*.