



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

***Carex subfusca* W. Boott**
Brown sedge, rusty sedge

SYNONYM: *C. teneraeformis* Mack.

HABIT: Densely tufted from short rhizomes. **Culms:** Erect, stiff, smooth, 2-10.5 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-5 on the lower one-fourth of the culm. **Blades:** Somewhat stiff, flat, 2-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Sparingly septate-nodulose dorsally, thin and hyaline ventrally, truncate or concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Small and inconspicuous, setaceous.

SPIKES: 4-12, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, greenish, becoming straw-colored or brown, distinguishable, but clustered into an oblong or ovoid head 1-3.5 cm long and 7-12 mm wide; perigynia spreading to appressed-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate with an obtuse to acuminate tip, shorter and narrower than to more or less covering the perigynia, greenish-stramineous with a lighter center and margins.

PERIGYNIA: Narrowly to broadly ovate, plano-convex, rounded or round-tapering at the base, tapering or abruptly contracted at the apex, narrowly winged with serrulate margins, thick, subcoriaceous, green to straw-colored, 1.4-4.3 mm long, 0.9-1.9 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several, fine or coarse dorsally; lacking or several ventrally. **Beaks:** Somewhat flattened, serrulate, half as long as the body, shallowly bidentate.

ACHENES: Short-oval, lenticular, substipitate, brown, 1-1.6 mm long, 0.7-1.2 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Locally common in moist or dry meadows and along forest borders. At **moderate elevations** in the mountains. British Columbia to southern California, eastward to Arizona and Utah. **May-July.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 1.