



Carex amplifolia. (A) Pistillate scales, (B) perigynia, (C) achenes, (D) inflorescence. A through C: Left—dorsal view; right—ventral view.

***Carex amplifolia* Boott**
Ample-leaved sedge, big-leaf sedge

HABIT: Culms arising singly or few together from long, stout, creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Coarse and stout, sharply triangular, usually dark red tinged toward the base, 5-10 dm tall, somewhat **aphyllopodic**, dry leaves of the previous year present.

LEAVES: 6-12, well distributed along the culm. **Blades:** Flat, septate-nodulose, light to glaucous-green, 8-20 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Hispidulous dorsally, thin and hyaline ventrally, V-shaped at the mouth.

BRACTS: Leafy, slightly sheathing; lowest usually surpassing the inflorescence.

SPIKES: Several, elongate, well separated, greenish brown. **Staminate:** Terminal, linear, short-peduncled, 5-8 cm long, sometimes with a smaller staminate spike at its base. **Pistillate:** 3-6, lateral, linear-cylindric, closely flowered, short-peduncled or sessile, 3-14 cm long, 6-7 mm wide; the upper approximate; the lower more or less separate; perigynia numerous, spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Oblong-ovate to lanceolate with an obtuse, acute to acuminate, or awned tip; narrower than and either shorter to longer than the perigynia; brownish red with a lighter 3-nerved center, darker scarious margins, and a hyaline apex.

PERIGYNIA: Ovoid, inflated but tending to collapse around the achene and becoming somewhat trigonous, thin-walled, membranous, glabrous, brownish green, 2.6-3.5 mm long, 1.2-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** 2-ribbed, otherwise nerveless. **Beaks:** Abruptly contracted, conic, more or less excurved, bidentulate or bidentate, usually hyaline tipped, 0.8-1.2 mm long.

ACHENES: Broadly ovoid or obovoid, trigonous with thickened angles, granular, substipitate, brown, 1.4-2 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Swamps, bogs, and other wet places, from **lowlands to moderate elevations** in the mountains. British Columbia to Oregon, California, and Idaho north of the Snake River Plain. Frequent and locally plentiful in the western portion of its range. **May-July.**

DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS: *C. amplifolia* is characterized by its combination of stout, winged stems, broad leaves, and narrow spikes with many small, dull, greenish brown perigynia.