



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

***Carex bebbii* Olney**
Bebb sedge

HABIT: Densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, roughened on the angles below the head, 2-9 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, distinctly **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-4, scattered on the lower one-half to one-third of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, 2-4.5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Narrow, thin and hyaline ventrally, usually concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Lowest sheathless, setaceous-prolonged, shorter than the inflorescence; upper reduced.

SPIKES: 3-12, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, 5-9 mm long, aggregated into an ovoid to linear-oblong, pale green to stramineous head 1.5-3 cm long and 0.8-1.5 cm wide; internodes short; perigynia crowded, stiffly ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Oblong-lanceolate, somewhat shorter and narrower than the perigynia, mostly hyaline-scarious with a firm green to brown midrib or sometimes brown with a lighter center, occasionally with very narrow and hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate, rounded at the base, mostly flattened to plano-convex, **wing-margined**, serrulate-margined to below the middle, dull green to brownish or stramineous, 2.7-3.7 mm long, 1.1-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Numerous and fine dorsally, lacking or obscure at the base ventrally. **Beaks:** Gradually tapered, flat, serrulate, obliquely cleft, bidentate, 0.75-1 mm long.

ACHENES: Broadly oval, lenticular, short-stipitate, brown, 1.1-1.5 mm long, 0.6-0.8 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Infrequent and local in wet to swampy meadows, swales, and on banks of ditches from **lowlands to moderate elevations**. British Columbia to Newfoundland and south to northern Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Illinois, and New Jersey. Found in isolated locations in Utah (Uinta Mountains) and Colorado. **June-July.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: *C. bebbii*—Perigynia short-ascending and slightly spreading, giving the spikes a ragged outline; pistillate scale shorter and narrower than the perigynium; perigynium more narrowly wing-margined to the rounded base; beak short, gradually tapering. *C. scoparia*—Pistillate scales and perigynia beaks appressed-ascending giving the spikes a smooth outline; pistillate scale long, narrow, awn-tipped; perigynium distinctly wing-margined, slightly tapering to the base; beak long, more abruptly tapering.