



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

***Carex brevior* (Dewey) Mack.**
Brevior sedge, short-beaked sedge

HABIT: Densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Sharply triangular, 2-10 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-6, clustered on the lower one-third of the culm. **Blades:** Flat or canaliculate, firm and coarse, 1.5-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Tight, conspicuously white-hyaline ventrally, truncate at the mouth.

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

SPIKES: 3-10, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, pale green to stramineous or tan, 6-10 mm long, borne in a moniliform or interrupted to occasionally more congested head 1.5-5 cm long; perigynia crowded, stiffly ascending or spreading-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate or ovate-lanceolate with an acuminate tip, narrower and shorter than the perigynia, reaching to the middle or tip of the beak, yellowish brown with a green center and narrow hyaline margins.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly ovate to suborbicular, broadest near the middle, flattened, plano-convex, or slightly concavo-convex, strongly **wing**-margined to the rounded or subtruncate base with the margins finely serrulate below, firm, coriaceous, green to greenish white or tan throughout, 3.2-5.5 mm long, (2) 2.4-3.4 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several to many on each face, prominent dorsally, faint or absent ventrally. **Beaks:** Flat, abruptly narrowed, winged, finely serrulate, less than one-third the length of the body, strongly bidentate, 0.8-1.5 mm long.

ACHENES: Orbicular, lenticular, substipitate, yellowish brown at maturity, 1.6-2.2 mm long, 1.3-1.9 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Frequent in moist meadows and swales, moist or dry openings, and along streambanks at **moderate elevations**. British Columbia to Quebec and south, chiefly east of the Continental Divide, but also along major watercourses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. **June-July.**