



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

***Carex diandra* Schrank**
Lesser panicled sedge

HABIT: Densely caespitose from short, fibrillose rhizomes. **Culms:** Sharply triangular, strongly roughened on the angles, 3-10 dm tall, equaling or exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Borne on the lower one-third of the culm. **Blades:** Elongate, canaliculate to plicate, 1-3 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin, tight, striate, red-dotted or plain ventrally, truncate to shallowly concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Lowest sometimes elongate and setaceous, sheathless; upper small and inconspicuous.

SPIKES: Numerous, **androgynous**, small, few-flowered, sessile, tan to brown, closely aggregated into a linear, simple or inconspicuously compound inflorescence, 1.5-6 cm long and 7-10 mm wide; perigynia spreading-ascending at maturity and early deciduous.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate to oblong-ovate with an acute to cuspidate tip, equal to shorter and sometimes wider than the perigynia, brownish with a pale midrib and wide-hyaline margins,

PERIGYNIA: Ovate or lance-ovate, unequally biconvex, tapering at the apex, firm and thick-walled, glossy, short-stipitate, dark brown, lighter toward the base and apex, 2-3 mm long, 0.9-1.4 mm wide. **Nerves:** A pair of veins border the thin median strip (an extension of the dorsal suture). **Beaks:** Coarse, tapering, thin-walled, serrulate-margined, occasionally the flap of the dorsal suture conspicuous, greenish to whitish.

ACHENES: Broadly obovate, lenticular, abruptly tapered at the substipitate base, apiculate with the apex truncate, 1-1.4 mm long, 0.8-1 mm wide, brown, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Swamps, sphagnum bogs, lake margins, and wet, often calcareous meadows **at moderate elevations**. Circumboreal. In North America from Yukon to Newfoundland and south to California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Iowa, and New Jersey. Seldom collected south of the Canadian border in the cordilleran region. **June-July.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. cusickii*.