



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

Carex haydeniana Olney
Cloud sedge, Hayden sedge

HABIT: Densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, erect to decumbent, 1-4 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-5, loosely clustered near the base of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, firm, 1.5-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Hyaline ventrally, concave to convex at the mouth.

BRACTS: Scalelike or prolonged, but much shorter than the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 4-7(9), **gynaecandrous**, sessile, 7-10 mm long, indistinguishable and densely aggregated into a triangular-ovoid, blackish-green to golden-brown head that is broadest at the truncate base and 1-2 cm long; perigynia appressed-ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Oblong-ovate to ovate with an acute tip, shorter and much narrower than the perigynia, scarious or hyaline-scarious, brownish black or black with a paler midvein.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly ovate to ovate-lanceolate, thin and very flat except where distended by the achene, abruptly contracted distally, doubly serrulate-margined to below the middle and strongly winged to the broadly rounded base, blackish at the center, pale or greenish stramineous along the margins and at the base, 4.2-6.5 mm long, 1.5-2.6 mm wide. **Nerves:** Prominent or occasionally absent dorsally; obscure or absent ventrally, or occasionally present at the base; inframarginal nerves delimit the wing from the perigynium body. **Beaks:** Slender, half the length of the body; the distal 0.5-1 mm terete, not markedly serrulate; tip dark, obliquely cleft, only obscurely bidentate.

ACHENES: Oblong, ovoid, lenticular, 1.3-1.7 mm long, 0.75-1.1 mm wide, jointed to a 0.5 mm stipe that traverses a loosely spongy area at the base of the perigynium. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: In moist to moderately dry places at **high elevations**, usually above timberline. British Columbia and Alberta south to Oregon, California, Idaho, central Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Wyoming, and Colorado. **June-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 1.