



Carex hystricina. (A) Inflorescence, (B) pistillate scales, (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B through D: Left—dorsal view; right—ventral view.

Carex hystericina Muhl.
Bottlebrush sedge, porcupine sedge

HABIT: Cespitose from short, stout rhizomes, sometimes forming dense patches. **Culms:** Sharply triangular, often roughened above, 1.5-10 dm tall, reddish-tinged at the base, slightly **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 3-7, not clustered. **Blades:** Flaccid, flat with slightly revolute margins, thin, glabrous, septate-nodulose, yellowish green, 2-10 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Membranous, ribbed ventrally, mostly green, concave at the mouth; basal sheaths becoming filamentose.

BRACTS: Leaflike, barely sheathing; lowest exceeding the inflorescence; upper reduced.

SPIKES: Several, green, ascending-spreading. **Staminate:** terminal, peduncled, linear, brown, 1-5 cm long, 2.5-4 mm wide. **Pistillate:** 1-4, oblong or oblong-cylindric, densely flowered, 1-6 cm long, 10-15 mm wide, approximate or the lowest strongly remote and nodding; perigynia spreading, porcupine-like.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate or oblanceolate, equaling or much narrower and shorter than the perigynia, 1-6 mm long, scarious or hyaline, ciliate-serrulate distally, pale to reddish brown with a 3-nerved green to reddish center; the center excurrent as a long, rough awn, 2-6 mm long.

PERIGYNIA: Slightly inflated, lanceolate or lance-ovoid, rounded at the short-stipitate base, thin-textured, glabrous and glossy, light green or greenish-stramineous, 5-7 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Prominently 12-20 ribbed on each surface; marginal nerves not evident. **Beaks:** Slender, 2-2.5 mm long, deeply bidentate with the teeth erect and rigid.

ACHENE: Obovoid-triangular, trigonous, thickened at the blunt angles, granular, brownish, 1.2-2 mm long, 0.9-1.3 mm wide, continuous with the slender, bony style that becomes flexuous at maturity. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Seldom collected. Occasional on wet ground near streams, meadows, and marshes from **lowlands to middle elevations**. Washington to Quebec, south to California, Arizona, Texas, Virginia, and Kentucky. **May-July**.