



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

Carex lenticularis Michx.

Lens sedge, lenticular-achened sedge, tufted sedge

HABIT: Cespitose, forming large clumps or tussocks. **Culms:** Slender, erect, 1-8 dm tall, shorter to longer than the leaves, brown at the base, **phyllopodic** or somewhat aphyllopodic, leaves of the previous year not obvious.

LEAVES: 4-9, clustered on the lower one-third of the culm. **Blades:** Erect, thin, flat above, 1-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Sometimes yellowish-brown-dotted ventrally, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Leaflike, erect, very short-sheathing, equaling or exceeding the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 3-6, erect, elongate, bicolored with green and reddish purple, more or less remote. **Terminal: Staminate**, sometimes with a few basal perigynia, linear, pedunculate, 0.8-3 cm long, 2.5 mm wide. **Lateral:** 3-5, **pistillate**, erect, cylindric, often attenuate toward the base, 1.5-5 cm long, 3-5 mm wide, sessile or the lower ones peduncled, closely flowered above, approximate; perigynia ascending, early deciduous.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Suborbicular-ovate to oblong-ovate with an obtuse tip, narrower and often shorter than the perigynia, dark reddish- or brownish-red-tinged with a broad, 3-nerved green center not extending to the apex, hyaline along the margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate, broadly elliptic or sometimes narrowly elliptic, bi-convex and sharply 2-edged, round-tapering or rounded-truncate at the slender base, short-stipitate, slightly swollen just above the stipe (torulose), membranaceous, green, sometimes slightly yellow-glandular-dotted, 1.8-3.5 mm long, 1-1.8 mm wide. **Nerves:** Few on both surfaces, some extend prominently toward the beak when dry. **Beaks:** Well-defined, firm, slender, entire with a dark tip, 0.1-0.3 mm long.

ACHENE: Oblong-quadrangular, lenticular, papillate, sessile to broadly stipitate, brown, 1.-1.5 mm long, 0.8-1.6 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Widespread in North America. Wet meadows, springs, lakeshores, and streambanks. **Sea level to higher elevations**, but not reaching timberline. California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Colorado. **May-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See appendix, table 3.