



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

***Carex limosa* L.**
Mud sedge, shore sedge

HABIT: Clumps arising singly or few together; rhizomes slender, scaly; roots covered with a yellowish-brown tomentum. **Culms:** Slender, sharply triangular, reddish at the base, 2-6 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, usually **aphyllopodic**, old leaves present.

LEAVES: 1-3. **Blades:** Canaliculate or deeply channeled, somewhat glaucous, gray green, 1-3 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Thin, hyaline ventrally, shallowly concave at the mouth; lower sheaths sometimes slightly filamentose.

BRACTS: The lowest narrowly leaflike or occasionally setaceous, sheathless or short-sheathed, brown-auricled, 2-10 cm long; the upper reduced.

SPIKES: 2-4, reddish to yellowish brown on long, nodding peduncles. **Terminal: Staminate**, erect or drooping, linear, 1-3 cm long, 2.5 mm wide. **Lateral:** 1-3, **pistillate**, occasionally with a few staminate flowers at the tip, nodding, 1-2.5 cm long, 5-8 mm wide, not crowded; perigynia appressed or ascending to spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Variable in size and shape, commonly ovate to suborbicular, short-tapering, obtuse or cuspidate at the apex, narrower and shorter than the perigynia to nearly equaling them, yellowish brown to dark reddish brown with a green 1- to 3-nerved center.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly ovoid, somewhat compressed, rounded-truncate and substipitate at the base, rounded at the apex or broadly tapering to a very short conic tip, coriaceous, densely papillate, yellowish green or glaucous-green to stramineous, 2.3-4.2 mm long, 2 mm wide. **Nerves:** 4-7 evident on each face; marginal nerves prominent. **Beaks:** Absent or up to 0.2 mm long, entire or emarginate.

ACHENES: Oblong-ovoid, trigonous, sessile, light brown becoming dark brown at maturity, 1.5-2.7 mm long, 1-1.8 mm wide, loosely filling the perigynium. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Occasional in sphagnum bogs and wet meadows at **higher elevations**. Circumboreal. In North America extending south to California, Idaho, and Montana. Reported from isolated locations in Nevada (Elko County), Utah (Uinta Mountains), and Wyoming. **July-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: *C. limosa*—Leaves canaliculate or channeled; pistillate scales yellowish to reddish brown, usually 3-nerved, obtuse to acuminate; staminate spike generally stiff, 1-3 cm long. *C. paupercula*—Leaves flat, pistillate scales brown, 1-nerved, short-awned; staminate spike shorter, 4-15 mm long, usually slenderly pedunculate.