



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

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***Carex multicosata* Mack.**

**Many-ribbed sedge**

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**HABIT:** Loosely to densely tufted without creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Stout, multi-striate, 1.5-9 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

**LEAVES:** 3-4, crowded toward the base. **Blades:** Flat, 2-6 mm wide.

**Sheaths:** Membranous and hyaline ventrally, truncate at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** Setaceous or short and inconspicuous, scarious, brownish, sheathless, much shorter than the inflorescence.

**SPIKES:** 3-10, **gynaecandrous**, sessile, green to dark brown, readily distinguishable but crowded in a narrow to pyramidal head 1-4 cm long and up to 2 cm wide; perigynia appressed to spreading-ascending.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Ovate with an obtuse to acute or slightly cuspidate tip, somewhat shorter and narrower than the perigynia, scarious, light reddish brown to dark brown with a pale 3-nerved center and broad, shining white-hyaline margins.

**PERIGYNIA:** Narrowly to broadly ovate, plano-convex, abruptly tapered at the apex, serrulate to below the middle and wing-margined to the rounded base, thick-walled, subcoriaceous, green to stramineous or brown with greenish upper wing margins, 3.5-6.3 mm long, 1.5-2.5 mm wide.

**Nerves:** 10 or more on each surface, obscure to conspicuous, longitudinally sulcate-wrinkled dorsally, fine-nerved or smooth ventrally. **Beaks:** Subterete or flattened; the distal 0.5-1.0 mm marginless, entire or bidentate, dark at the tip.

**ACHENES:** Quadrato-suborbicular, lenticular, substipitate, yellow or light brown, 1.7-2.7 mm long, 1.1-1.7 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 2.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Uncommon to frequent in wet to dry meadows, along streambanks, and on open, moist slopes at **moderate elevations**. From the Cascade-Sierran region of Washington, Oregon, and California through eastern Oregon, Nevada, central Idaho, and Montana. **July-August**.

**SIMILAR SPECIES:** *C. multicosata*—Usually with a more or less pyramidal inflorescence and ovate perigynia that are green with a light center and a broadly tapered base. *C. specifica*—Usually with an elliptic to oblong inflorescence and lanceolate, stramineous perigynia with brown or darker center and a narrowly tapered base.