



Carex norvegica. (A) Inflorescences, (B) pistillate scales (center scale subtends a perigynium), (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B through D: Left and center—dorsal views; right—ventral view.

Carex norvegica Retz.
Norway sedge, Scandinavian sedge

HABIT: Loosely to densely tufted on a compact system of slender, branched rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, lax, sharply triangular above, 2-8 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: 5-7, aggregated toward the base, but some cauline. **Blades:** Pale green, flat, soft, glabrous, 1.5-3 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Ventrally hyaline, truncate to concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Generally leaflike, sheathless, shorter to longer than the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 2-5, erect or closely ascending, sessile or short-pedunculate, bicolored with green and blackish purple, relatively small, approximate. **Terminal: Gynaecandrous**, short-oblong to suborbicular, slender at the base, 3.5-14 mm long, 3-5 mm wide. **Lateral: Pistillate**, seldom over 10 mm long, closely 8- to 25-flowered; perigynia ascending.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Broadly ovate with an obtuse tip, equaling or shorter than the perigynia and usually as wide, purplish black to brownish black with white-hyaline margins, the midrib inconspicuous or sometimes lighter.

PERIGYNIA: More or less obovate, elliptic, distended by the achene, glabrous but minutely rough-textured, coppery yellow or light green to sometimes dark purple, 2.1-3 mm long, 1-1.3 mm wide. **Nerves:** Absent, inconspicuous, or few on both surfaces; marginal nerves well-developed. **Beaks:** Black or dark reddish-tinged, bidentate, 0.3-0.5 mm long.

ACHENES: Trigonous, sessile, pale to brown, 1.2-1.7 mm long, 0.7-1 mm wide. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Frequent on moist, open slopes and in partially shaded microhabitats in subalpine meadows and along stream-banks at **high elevations**. Circumboreal. Alaska to Labrador and south through Washington, New Mexico, and Michigan. In the Intermountain area in California (White Mountains), Nevada (Ruby Mountains), Idaho, and Utah. **June-August**.