



0 5mm



0 1mm

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

Carex nova Bailey
Black sedge, new sedge

HABIT: Densely tufted on a system of short, branched, sometimes scarcely evident rhizomes. **Culms:** Somewhat lax, brownish to reddish at the base, 1.5-6 dm tall, often exceeding the leaves, slightly **aphyllopodic**, sheaths of the previous year persistent.

LEAVES: 8-15, clustered at the base. **Blades:** Erect, firm, flat with slightly revolute margins, roughened at the attenuate apex, 2-5 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Very thin, hyaline, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: Slender, inconspicuous to foliaceous-prolonged, sheathless, shorter than the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 3-5, short, broad, obscurely bicolored with greenish black to brown and tan, closely aggregated and difficult to differentiate in a densely capitate, lobate inflorescence. **Terminal: Gynaecandrous** with few staminate flowers, sessile, commonly about 1 cm long. **Lateral: Pistillate**, crowded, rarely over 1 cm long; perigynia spreading.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate-oblong to linear-oblong with an obtuse to acuminate tip, equaling or shorter than the perigynia and about as wide, dark brown to purplish black throughout.

PERIGYNIA: Broadly elliptic to oblong or subrotund, strongly flattened, membranous, glabrous, substipitate, stramineous or green to dark purple or brown with pale margins, 2.8-4.5 mm long, 2-3.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Marginal nerves present, ciliate-scabrous. **Beaks:** Abruptly contracted, slender, black, shallowly or obscurely bidentate, 0.3-0.6 mm long.

ACHENES: Trigonous, commonly sharp-angled, evidently stipitate, brown, 1.5-2 mm long, 1 mm wide, much smaller than the perigynium. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Common in meadows and on moist, open slopes and streambanks at **high elevations** in the mountains, often above timberline. Oregon (Harney County), central Idaho, Nevada (Elko County), Utah, western Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. **June-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. nelsonii*.