



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

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*Carex parryana* Dewey  
Parry sedge

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**HABIT:** Loosely tufted with scaly, long or short creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Stiff, obtusely triangular, reddish-tinged, 1.5-6 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **phyllopodic**, dried leaves of previous years conspicuous.

**LEAVES:** 5-12, crowded near the base of the culm. **Blades:** Thin, firm and stiff, flat to channeled with revolute margins, 2-4 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Very thin ventrally, concave at the mouth.

**BRACTS:** Sheathless or nearly so, reddish-tinged at the base, usually shorter than the inflorescence.

**SPIKES:** 1-5, slender, cylindric, purplish to reddish brown. **Terminal:** Frequently **staminate**, gynaeandrous, or with intermingled male and female flowers, short-peduncled, 1.5-3 cm long, usually longer than the lateral spikes. **Lateral: Pistillate**, erect, linear, 0.7-2 cm long, 2-4 mm wide; perigynia appressed.

**PISTILLATE SCALES:** Suborbicular with the tip obtuse or short-mucronate, equaling the perigynia and concealing them, stramineous to dark reddish brown with a green midrib and white-hyaline margins.

**PERIGYNIA:** Broadly obovoid, unequally trigonous, tapering at the base, somewhat rounded toward the apex, glabrous, short-stipitate, stramineous but reddish-tinged and rough-granular or shortly strigose-hirtellous toward the apex, 1.6-3 mm long, 1-1.5 mm wide. **Nerves:** Nearly absent on both surfaces; marginal nerves prominent. **Beaks:** Very short or obsolete, often slightly to strongly ciliate, bidentulate, 0.1-0.2 mm long.

**ACHENES:** Obovoid, trigonous or triquetrous, slightly granular, short-stipitate, brown, 1.4-1.8 mm long, 1-1.25 mm wide, jointed to the style. **Stigmas:** 3.

**HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION:** Rare to infrequent and very local. In meadows, swales, and on low, moist ground around streams and lakes. Prairies and high plains at **moderate elevations** in the mountains. Chiefly east of the Continental Divide from Alberta to Manitoba south to central and eastern Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, northern Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and North Dakota. Isolated in central Nevada and in the White Mountains of California. **June-August.**