



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

Carex raynoldsii Dewey
Raynold sedge

HABIT: Loosely caespitose from stout, scaly rhizomes. **Culms:** Stout, erect, stiff, sharp-angled, reddish-tinged at the base, 2-8 dm tall, exceeding the leaves, **phyllopodic** or slightly aphyllopodic, dried leaves of the previous year conspicuous.

LEAVES: 5-10, clustered toward the base. **Blades:** Ascending, stiff, flat with revolute margins, attenuate, roughened toward the apex, 2-8 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Yellowish-tinged ventrally, concave at the mouth.

BRACTS: The lowest leaflike, sheathless, dark-auricled, equaling or shorter than the inflorescence; the upper reduced.

SPIKES: Several, bicolored with green and purplish black, approximate, sometimes capitate-crowded. **Terminal: Staminate**, linear, sessile, 1-2 cm long, 3-4.5 mm wide. **Lateral: 2-4, pistillate**, erect, oblong, 1-2 cm long, 6-8 mm wide, densely flowered, the upper sessile, the lower pedunculate; perigynia spreading-ascending to spreading, very conspicuous.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Broadly ovate with an acute to obtuse or acuminate tip, shorter and distally narrower than the perigynia exposing much of their distal margins, dark reddish black with a pale midrib.

PERIGYNIA: Oval to oblong-ovoid, broadly tapering at the substipitate base, rounded and abruptly contracted at the apex, firm-walled, somewhat inflated, yellowish green to yellowish brown or suffused with brownish purple, (3)3.3-4.5 mm long, 1.6-2.1 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several on both surfaces, riblike or sometimes obscure especially when young and fresh; marginal nerves present. **Beaks:** Reddish-tinged, entire or very shallowly bidentate, 0.1-0.5 mm long.

ACHENES: Obovoid, trigonous with thick angles, minutely granular, broadly substipitate, yellowish brown when mature, 1.8-2.5 mm long, 1.1-1.7 mm wide, loosely filling the perigynia except for the usually flat upper margins. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Common in moist or dry meadows and on open or wooded slopes from **foothills to high elevations**. British Columbia and Alberta south to California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, and Colorado. **June-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. paysonis*.