



Carex sheldonii. (A) Inflorescences, (B) pistillate scales, (C) perigynia, (D) achenes. B and C: Left and left-center—dorsal views; right-center and right—ventral views.

***Carex sheldonii* Mack.**
Sheldon sedge

HABIT: Culms arising singly or in small tufts from creeping rhizomes, sometimes forming dense swards. **Culms:** Erect, obtusely angled, glabrous, brown, stout at the base, 4-10 cm tall, slightly **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: About 4, borne on the lower one-half of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, firm but thin, light green, 3-6 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Yellowish brown, membranous, usually villous-hirsute ventrally, darker at the concave mouth; basal sheaths becoming cross-filamentose.

BRACTS: Lower leaflike, not sheathing, exceeding the inflorescence; upper reduced and not sheathing.

SPIKES: Several, green or yellowish green, becoming stramineous, remote. **Terminal:** 2-3, **staminate**, linear, 2-3.5 mm long, 3 mm wide; the upper longer and peduncled; basal sessile. **Lateral: Pistillate**, 2-3, erect, cylindrical, sessile, 2-6 cm long, 8-10 mm wide, closely flowered but not crowded, widely separated; perigynia ascending,

PISTILLATE SCALES: Ovate-lanceolate with the tip acuminate to cuspidate or awned, narrower and shorter than the perigynia, reddish brown with a strongly 3- to 5-nerved green or pale center and hyaline or stramineous margins.

PERIGYNIA: Ovate-lanceolate, flattened distally, rounded at the sessile base, tapered at the apex, subcoriaceous, short-pubescent, green becoming straw-colored or brownish, occasionally suffused with purplish brown, 5-6(8) mm long, about 2 mm wide. **Nerves:** 12-20, conspicuous; marginal nerves obscure or lacking. **Beaks:** Strongly tapering, frequently dark-tinged, 2 mm long; teeth prominent, often unequal, outcurved.

ACHENES: Oblong-obovoid, obtusely trigonous, short-stipitate, yellowish brown, 1.8-2.5 mm long, 0.7-1.2 mm wide, continuous with the straight, persistent, bony style. **Stigmas:** 3.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Infrequent to rare in wet meadows, marshes, roadside ditches, and streambanks. **Foothills to moderate elevations.** Oregon (northern Harney County), northeastern California, central and west-central Idaho, and Utah. **June-August.**

SIMILAR SPECIES: See *C. atherodes*.