



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

Carex siccata Dewey
Dry sedge, silvertop sedge

HABIT: Culms arising singly from brown, slender to stout, creeping rhizomes. **Culms:** Slender, mostly 1.5-6(9) dm tall, exceeding the leaves, from somewhat to distinctly **aphyllopodic**.

LEAVES: Several, borne on the lower one-fourth of the culm. **Blades:** Flat, 1-3 mm wide. **Sheaths:** Ventrally hyaline, truncate at the mouth, overlapping.

BRACTS: Prolonged to inconspicuous, setaceous, shorter than the inflorescence.

SPIKES: 3-12, **androgynous** (sometimes appearing falsely gynaeandrous), sessile, greenish brown to golden brown, 5-10 mm long, 2.5-5 mm wide, readily distinguishable to indistinguishable (especially the upper ones), but aggregated into a cylindric or clavate-cylindric head 1.5-3.5 cm long and about 1 cm wide; the lowest sometimes removed from the main cluster; perigynia appressed.

PISTILLATE SCALES: Broadly ovate, shorter than to equaling the perigynia and concealing them, brown with a firmer, often pale or greenish midvein, tending to be hyaline-margined.

PERIGYNIA: Lance-ovate to elliptic, plano-convex, abruptly tapered toward the stipitate base, sharp-edged proximally, becoming thin-margined distally, serrulate over most of its length, sometimes rather granular-tuberculate, greenish brown or greenish black with the green margins disappearing at maturity, 3-6 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide. **Nerves:** Several, coarse dorsally; few, obscure ventrally. **Beaks:** Flattened and serrulate, over one-half as long as the body, narrowly hyaline at the obliquely and deeply cleft and obscurely to prominently bidentate tip.

ACHENES: Quadrate-orbicular, lenticular, brown at maturity, 1.7-2.2 mm long, filling the perigynium. **Stigmas:** 2.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Frequent, but usually rather local on dry to moderately wet, open or thinly wooded grassy slopes from the **base of the mountains to near timberline**. Alaska to Washington, Utah, Arizona, and Wyoming, and east to Maine and New Jersey. **June-August**.