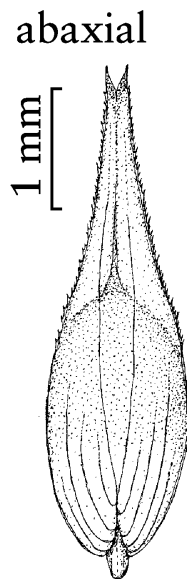




Image by ALTA



Carex
infirmivervia

Courtesy of the Flora of North America
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Illustrator Susan A. Reznicek

WEAK-NERVED SEDGE

Carex infirmivervia Naczi

SEDGE FAMILY (CYPERACEAE)

Plants: Densely caespitose sedge with lax slender stems 10-80 cm long; **papillose midway up the stem.** Papillae may be deciduous with maturity.

Leaves: Leaf blades 1.4–3.8 mm wide; **ligule of distal leaves (2.1–)2.6–6.8 mm long.**

Flower clusters: Spikes usually (4-)5-6(-7), gynecandrous but may be pistillate or staminate; Inflorescences are longer than wide with 12-22 perigynia in the spike, typically white to gold in colour, terminal spike sessile or peduncled; Pistillate scales are 2.9-4.4 mm long, covering the achene, white or chestnut-coloured with a green midrib; acuminate to short-awned.

Fruits: Perigynia are erect or erect appressed, (3.7 - 5.3 mm) long with 0-4 faint dorsal nerves; the denticulate **beak occupies 38%-50% of the perigynia length** (measured from the top of the achene); **beak teeth are absent or short (0-2mm)** and not spreading. Stigmas 2. Achenes 1.5-1.8 times as long as wide.

Habitat: Subalpine Engelmann spruce – subalpine fir forests in the extreme SW of Alberta (ANHIC 2009). Found elsewhere in moist to wet microsites within forests or woodland. *Carex infirmivervia* is widespread but infrequent throughout much of the western United States and western Canada (Naczi et al 2002).

Status: S1 G4G5

Notes:

Carex infirminervia is a recently described species. It has been observed growing in association with *C. deweyana*, and *C. leptopoda*, and may be confused with them.

C. infirminervia is **unique in its combination of papillose culms, long ligules, perigynia beaks occupying a high percentage of the perigynia length, and toothless or short-toothed perigynium apices** (Naczi et al 2002).



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