

Carex globosa Boott, ROUND-FRUITED SEDGE. Perennial herb, rhizomatous, fibrous-rooted, loosely caespitose forming leafy clumps, spreading to ascending, 20–75 cm tall; monoecious; shoots with only basal leaves, glabrous; rhizomes horizontal and arching to ascending, 1–1.5 mm diameter, tough, covered with scalelike leaf sheaths, the sheath initially reddish brown to cinnamon brown aging brownish, breaking apart and persistent as long fibers. **Stems (culms):** cylindric at base to 3-sided above, to 50 mm long, \pm 1 mm diameter at base, tough, flexible, sides flat, edges rounded and smooth; solid. **Leaves:** alternate tristichous, simple with sheath; sheath closed, membranous, initially U-shaped later splitting and shredding into fibers, dark reddish to dark reddish brown along veins; ligule arching and with margins continuous with margins of sheath, 0.2–0.4 mm long, the shortest at center of arch; blade linear, to 400+ mm long, 1.5–2 mm wide at base expanding to 3 mm wide above midblade and thereafter tapering to tip, tough, bright green, V-shaped base to tip or flattish, minutely toothed on margins (scabrous), acute at tip, parallel-veined, with conspicuously raised midrib on lower surface, lower surface minutely toothed along midrib. **Inflorescence:** racemelike array of 3–5 spikes, spikes mostly unisexual, pistillate spikes mostly near base, with (4–)6–12 florets, terminal spike staminate with 1–3 pistillate florets at base and ca. 30 staminate florets (androgynous), inflorescence on culm to 650 mm long; bract at top of culm leaflike, 10–25 mm long; axis of pistillate spike suberect, 8–15 mm long, convex-concave, minutely toothed along edges; axis of staminate spike 75+ mm long, subtended by a reduced pistillate spike. **Staminate spike:** cylindric to narrowly ellipsoid, 9–15 \times 3–4 mm; bractlet subtending flower (scale or floral bract) elliptic to oblanceolate, in range 4–4.5 \times 1.8–2.1 mm, acute at tip, greenish along midvein and membranous on margins, purplish to brown above midpoint. **Staminate flower:** perianth absent; stamens 3, free; filaments equal, 0.5–0.7 mm long, white; anthers basifixed, dithecal, linear, in range 2.3–2.5 \times 0.2 mm, longitudinally dehiscent; pistil absent. **Pistillate spike:** cylindric to narrowly ellipsoid, (7.5–)9.5–12.5 \times 2.5–3 mm; bractlet subtending flower ovate to lanceolate, in range 3–5 \times 1.8–2.3 mm, increasing in length from base to tip of spike, obtuse or with short point (cuspidate) to acute at tip, green centrally and broadly white-membranous on margins. **Pistillate flower:** perianth absent; stamens absent; pistil 1, enclosed in a sac (perigynium); perigynium lanceoloid, 2.3–4 \times 0.4–0.8 mm, tapered to a narrow beak through which the style passes, beak obliquely 2-toothed; ovary superior, 4–4.5 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; style exerted, 3-branched, the branches stigmatic, threadlike, 1.5–2 mm long. **Fruit:** achene enclosed in perigynium; perigynium obovoid with short beak at top, in range 4.6–5.3 \times 1.8–2 mm, initially green, with 12–20 parallel, longitudinal veins (some veins more prominent than others), pubescent, the beak \pm narrowly conic (flared at base and cylindric above), 0.7–1.2 mm long; achene spheroid to obovoid and obtusely 3-sided (roundish), in range 2.3–2.8 \times 1.5–1.7 mm, brown, minutely pebbled on surface; style absent. Late April–June.

Native. Perennial herb known from several sites, mostly at bases of sandstone outcrops where soil remains moist, principally in southern oak woodland or tall chaparral, on the north-facing side of Castro Peak, on the SMMNRA Hennesy property, and in Sullivan Canyon (SMM). *Carex globosa* was overlooked in range by earlier local treatments. Round-fruited sedge produces a distinctive, short-hairy, obovoid perigynium, which cannot

be confused with the perigynia of other species in range, and the specific epithet *globosa* refers to the approximate shape of the achene.

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