



## *Carex litorosa*

### **Common Name(s):**

Sea Sedge

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

At Risk - Declining

### **Distribution:**

Endemic to North, South and Stewart Islands.

### **Habitat:**

Coastal in salty, brackish marshes and on sandy, tidal river banks.

### **Features\*:**

An upright sedge to 800 mm tall (but usually smaller), that forms pale green or reddish, dense tussocks with curly tops. Leaves are flat on one side, curved on the other and slightly serrated along the edge, 1.5 mm wide and about the same length as the flower stem. Flower stems are cylindrical and upright, with light brown spikes.

### **Flowering:**

October to  
December

### **Fruiting:**

December to April (but seedheads  
long persistent)

### **Threats:**

Habitat loss through coastal development. Encroachment by weeds is a serious problem in the North Island, especially from species such as spartina, tall fescue and *Carex divisa*.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 2 September 2003.

### **References and further reading:**

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=120](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=120)



**Caption:** Pounaweia

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Awarua Bay, Southland

**Photographer:** Jesse Bythell