



Carex aucklandica

Common Name(s):

Subantarctic Hook Grass

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South (South Otago, Fiordland), Stewart, Auckland and Campbell Islands

Habitat:

forest and shrubland from sea level to 900 m a.s.l. Occasionally extending into tussock grassland (Poa/Chionochloa) where it has been found sympatric with *U. hookeri* on the Auckland and Campbell Islands

Features*:

Slender tufts, shoots < 1mm diameter at base (including sheaths), often rather distant from an ascending rhizome < 1 mm diameter. Culms 50-400 mm long, much < 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous; basal bracts dull, dark reddish brown. Leaves 4-7 per culm, ± = culms, 0.5-1 mm wide, yellow-green, scabrid on margins and adaxial surface towards the long filiform tip. Spikes 25-50 × 2-3 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers c. 10-20, internodes to 5 mm long at base of spike, 1.5-2.0 mm long above. Glumes = or slightly < utricles, deciduous, ovate-lanceolate, subacute, membranous, pale cream or brown with a green midrib. Utricles 5-6 mm long, slightly < 1 mm diameter, plano-convex or subtrigonous to trigonous, narrow oblong-lanceolate, light green, shining, nerved but often very faintly so on the two abaxial surfaces, usually erect when ripe, slightly narrowed to a stipe 1.0-1.5 mm long, beak gradually tapered, only slightly narrower than utricle, 1.0-1.5 mm long

Flowering:

November - December

Fruiting:

December - February

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970). Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 August 2006.

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1331