



Carex banksiana

Common Name(s):

Fine-leaved Bastard Grass

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi to the southern Waikato and Bay of Plenty, thence mostly in west to about Wellington), South Island (North-West Nelson, Marlborough Sounds, Canterbury and Otago)

Habitat:

Next to *Carex uncinata* Linn.f. one of the most common species of northern coastal and lowland forest and scrub.

Features*:

Densely tufted, bright green to blue-green plants. Culms 100-350 mm long, much < 0.5 mm diameter, glabrous, terete; basal bracts dull reddish brown. Leaves 3-6 per culm, = or > culm, 0.5-1.5 mm wide, very soft, harshly scabrid on margins and upper surface towards the long filiform tip. Spikes 30-70 × 1-2 mm, occasionally bracteate, female flowers c.5-10, all distant, internodes 1-10 mm. long, male glumes scarcely imbricating. Glumes much < utricles, deciduous, ovate or oblong, acute or acuminate, hyaline with a green midrib. Utricles 4.5-6 mm long, slightly < 1 mm diameter, plano-convex or terete, narrow-lanceolate or oblong, strongly nerved, rarely smooth, green to very pale brown, not spreading at maturity, distinctly contracted to a stipe 0.5-1.0 mm long, beak 1.0-1.5 mm long

Flowering:

October -
November

Fruiting:

November - April (but old
inflorescences present throughout
the year)

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=1332



Caption: *Carex banksii*

Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: Castle Rock, Coromandel.
February

Photographer: John Smith-
Dodsworth