



Carex edura

Common Name(s):

Bastard Grass, Hook Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand, North (from the Raukumara Range south), South and Campbell Islands.

Habitat:

Montane to alpine. A species of open forest, scrub, tussock grassland, herbfield, mires, bogs and river beds. Also common on ultramafic soils.

Features*:

Laxly tufted or shortly rhizomatous dark yellowish green or orange-green plants. Rhizome 1-2 mm. diameter. Culms 10.0-400.0 × 0.5-2.0 mm, erect or ascending, rigid, cartilaginous, subtrigonus, glabrous; basal bracts dull yellow-brown or darker brown. Lvs 4-12 per culm, usually < mature culms but occasionally = or > culms, 1.5-4.0 mm wide, rather soft to coriaceous, dark yellowish green, scabrid on margins. Spikes 10-45 × 4-10 mm, female fls numerous, densely crowded, internodes almost all equal, 0.5-1.0 mm long. Glumes occasionally > utricles in lower part of spike, = or < utricles above, deciduous, subulate or ovate, obtuse to subacute, membranous, hyaline, or light to dark brown and opaque, midrib green with the 3 nerves not very conspicuous, midrib of 1-3 lowest glumes often scabrid and occasionally prolonged in lowermost glume to a scabrid awn. Utricles 3.5-5.0 × 1.0-1.5 mm, trigonus or subtrigonus with conspicuous lateral nerves, greenish brown to dark brown, widely spreading when ripe, contracted below to a broad stipe c.1 mm long, beak 1.0-1.5 mm long

Flowering:

October - November

Fruiting:

November - May

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=1336



Caption: Birch Hill stream, Mt Cook. February

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth