



Carex megalepis

Common Name(s):

Bastard grass, Cavers beard

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Stewart Islands. From northern Waikato south.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane forest, especially in the west. Often abundant in forest overlying calcareous rocks.

Features*:

Robust, yellow-green to dark green caespitose plants. Culms 100-600 × c.1 mm, glabrous; basal bracts dull brown to reddish brown. Leaves 4-8 per culm, = or > culms, 3-5 mm wide, scabrid on the margins. Spikes 70-160 × 6-10 mm, usually bracteate, female flowers c.60-100, very closely crowded throughout the whole spike, internodes 0.5-4.0 mm long. Glumes twice as long as utricles, deciduous, linear-subulate, acute or obtuse, coriaceous, dark golden yellow or rust-coloured. Utricles 4.0-5.0 × c.1.5 mm., plano-convex or rarely subtrigonal, dark brown, shining, nerved towards the base with a more strongly marked lateral nerve, sharply contracted below to a stipe 1 mm long and above to a stout beak 1.5-2.0 mm long.

Flowering:

October - December

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=1339



Caption: Utricles and glumes. In cultivation. Jan 2011.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Close-up of fruiting spike. In cultivation. Jan 2011.

Photographer: Colin Ogle