



## *Carex penalpina*

### Common Name(s):

Bastard Grass, Hook Sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Volcanic Plateau, Kaimanawa, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges), South Island (widespread except in Westland) and Stewart Islands.

### Habitat:

Upper montane to alpine. In sparse forest and subalpine scrub, snow-tussock and short-tussock grassland, herbfield, and on ultramafic rock, scree and fellfield.

### Features\*:

Shortly rhizomatous or loosely tufted, bright green, yellow-green or glaucous plants. Rhizome woody, 2-3 mm diameter Culms 80.0-400.0 × 0.7-2.0 mm, stiffly erect, scabrid below inflorescence; basal bracts dull reddish brown or dull dark brown. Leaves 4-7 per culm, < or ± = culms, 1.5-5.0 mm wide, rigid, curved to falcate, coriaceous, margins usually harshly scabrid but occasionally almost glabrous, upper surface near tip scabrid. Spikes 20-75 × 3-7 mm, linear to subclavate, occasionally bracteate, female flowers usually 10-15, mostly close-set, rarely rather lax, internodes to 6 mm long at base of spike, 2-3 mm long above. Glumes slightly >, = or slightly < utricles, persistent, ovate, obtuse or lowermost subacute, coriaceous, greenish brown, light brown or dull dark brown, rarely bright chestnut-brown, midrib broad, green, margins white, hyaline. Utricles 5.0-7.5 × 1.5-2.0 mm, plano-convex or concavo-convex, ovate or obovate, many-nerved, tapered above to a beak 1.5-2.0 mm long, slightly narrowed at the base to a stipe 1-2 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=1341](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1341)



**Caption:** Ruahine Range. January  
**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



**Caption:** Mount Holdsworth, Tararua Forest Park. Feb 2008.  
**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe