



Carex obtusifolia

Common Name(s):

Fine-leaved Bastard Grass

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Stewart Islands. In the North Island found only in the mountainous regions of the southern half; in the South Island present mainly west of the main divide (rarely in the east). Found throughout Stewart Island.

Habitat:

Wet ground in bogs, damp flushes, hollows, and seepages in tussock grassland, around the margins of clearings, among open scrub, and in open pasture in lowland and low-alpine areas.

Features*:

Small tufts to small tussocks, laxly to densely caespitose, sometimes with fine creeping rhizomes. Culms glabrous, trigonous, at flowering similar in length to leaves, at maturity much longer than leaves, 50-400 × 0.3-0.6 mm; basal bracts light brown to yellow-brown, dull, 2-7 mm long. Leaves plano-convex or concavo-convex, rigid, linear, strongly nerved on abaxial surface, erect or ascending, 45-300 × 0.4-0.5 mm; apex obtuse and nerves weak or absent; margins scabrous when young, often becoming glabrous when mature. Spikes oblong, 15-20 mm long; female flowers proximal, 3-7, internodes 1.5-3.0 mm long; male flowers distal, 3-5. Glumes < utricle, deciduous, elliptic-lanceolate to lanceolate, 3.5-5.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm; midrib green; apex subacute to obtuse; margins membranous. Utricles trigonous, elliptic to lanceolate, yellow-green, yellow-brown, or light brown, lateral nerves present but not conspicuous, 5.0-6.2 × 0.9-1.1 mm; stipe and beak both narrow, each c. 1.5 mm long; rachilla exerted beyond utricle, 5.3-6.5 mm long. Nut trigonous, narrow-elliptic to linear, pale brown, dull, 3.0-3.9 × 0.8-1.1 mm

Flowering:

November - December

Fruiting:

December – May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description and details from Heenan (1995). Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 August 2006.

References and further reading:

Heenan, P.B. 1995: *Uncinia obtusifolia*. (Cyperaceae), a new species of hooked sedge in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 34: 11-15

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1348



Caption: *Carex obtusifolia*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Dorset Ridge, Tararua Forest Park. Feb 2008.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe