



## *Carex horizontalis*

### **Common Name(s):**

Bastard Grass, Hook Sedge

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: North, South and Chatham Islands.

### **Habitat:**

A mainly forest dwelling species. Mostly montane in the North Island (300-1000 m a.s.l.) but becoming more common in lowland areas in the southern South Island. Irrespective of altitude common throughout forested areas on the Chatham Islands.

### **Features\*:**

Plants loosely tufted or forming a dense turf. Culms 100.0–400.0 x c.0.5 mm, drooping or nodding, glabrous, usually slightly scabrid just below inflorescence; basal bracts light brown, not shining. Leaves widely spreading, 4–7 per culm, < mature culms, c.1.5–2.0 mm wide, bright green, soft, channelled, scabrid on margins and upper surface towards apex. Spikes 30–60 x 3–5 mm., occasionally bracteate, female flowers 5–33, lax towards base of spike with internodes to 6 mm long, more crowded above with internodes 0.5–1.0 mm long. Glumes ± = or us. < utricles, deciduous, ovate, acute or acuminate, hyaline with green midrib or very pale brown. Utricles 4.5–6.0 x 1.0–1.5 mm, ovate-lanceolate, trigonous, green to greenish brown, usually smooth except for a prominent lateral nerve but occasionally with a few less distinct nerves, somewhat spreading when ripe, slightly contracted below to a stipe c.1.0–1.5 mm long, tapering above to a beak of 1–2 mm long.

### **Flowering:**

October - December

### **Fruiting:**

December - April (-July)

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened

### **\*Attribution:**

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

### **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=1350](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1350)