



Carex buchananii

Common Name(s):

Buchanans sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands. In the North Island uncommon. Known there only from scattered sites south of the Manawatu. In the South Island more widespread and at times locally common, though often sporadically distributed, and apparently absent from Westland and Fiordland. Scarce in Southland. Naturalised in Auckland City. Recorded as naturalised in the United Kingdom.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 1000 m a.s.l.). On beaches, lagoon, lake and stream margins, or in damp ground within open forest or short tussock grassland.

Features*:

Densely tufted, strict, reddish brown, rarely yellow-green, sedge arising from an ascending rhizome c.3 mm diameter. Culms 70.0–900.0 × 0.5–1.5 mm. erect, rarely elongating to 1.2 m and becoming prostrate, semiterete, smooth and shining, basal sheaths dark red-purple, almost black. Leaves = or slightly > culms, c.1.0–1.5 mm wide, plano-convex, often semiterete, erect, wiry, linear, gradually narrowed and flattened towards the acute, occasionally cirrhose apices, smooth and shining, reddish or green on the back, upper surface matt, pale cream, margins scaberulous towards the base, more strongly serrulate towards the tip, sheath not much broader than lamina and of similar texture, with finely membranous margins. Spikes 5–6, silvery, distant, or the upper spikes approximate, sessile or the lowest slightly pedunculate; uppermost 1(–2) spikes male, cylindrical; lower spikes female, 5–30 × 3–4 mm., oblong, occasionally with a few male flowers at the base; bracts subtending lower spikes lf-like, much > inflorescence. Glumes (excluding awn) < or = utricles, ovate, acute, white and membranous, with a stronger midrib and long scabrid awn. Utricles 2.5–3.0 mm long, slightly > 1 mm wide, plano-convex, elliptic-ovoid, pale cream at the base with dark brown to purple-black splotches above or occasionally entirely pale green, faintly nerved, margins scabrid above, abruptly narrowed to a pale slender, recurved, deeply bifid beak, 0.5–1.0 mm long, margins ciliate-serrate, orifice scabrid, stipe minute. Stigmas 2. Nut c.1.5 mm, long, plano-convex to almost biconvex, obovoid, tapering towards the base, brown.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

November - June

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006). 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.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285–309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1400



Caption: *Carex buchananii*
Photographer: John Barkla



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