



Carex cirrhosa

Common Name(s):

Curly Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South Island - mainly easterly. In North Island very local from Lake Whangape (near Huntly) to Lake Wairarapa. In the South Island in scattered sites from about North Canterbury to Southland.

Habitat:

Lake, pond and tarn margins - preferring low marginal turf in sites subjected to seasonal inundation.

Features*:

Tufted sedge forming dense wine red, silvery-grey or yellow-green tussocks. Culms 100-400 mm long, enclosed by light brown leaf sheaths. Leaves 25-200 X 0.5-1.0 mm, basally wine-red, apically silvery-grey, narrow-linear, concavo-convex, margins incurved, scabrid, tip strongly curled and twisted. Inflorescence of 2-5 spikes buried within basal portion of plant; terminal 1-2 male, lower 1-3 female crowded round base of male spikes, 3-8 X 2 mm, lower most spikes often distant, pedunculate, bracts subtending female spikes leaf-like, > spikes. Glumes slightly < utricles, or = to utricule length if awned, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, cuspidate, hyaline, white or pale pink, midrib often green. Utricles 2.0-3.0 X 1.0-1.5 mm, plano-convex, elliptic-ovoid, yellow-green in lower half and on beak, pinkish brown otherwise, nerved, sessile, margins smooth or minutely scabrid, abruptly narrowed to an acute bidentate beak 0.5 mm, crura scabrid. Stigmas 2. Nut 1.5 mm, biconvex, oblong-ovoid, brown. Flowering. October-January Fruiting. November-February.

Flowering:

No information available

Fruiting:

No information available

Threats:

Habitat loss as a consequence of taller and faster growing weeds encroaching on the lake side marginal turf communities this sedge evidently prefers. This species is also threatened by changes in lake levels and seasonal water regimes as a consequence of dams and water abstraction.

*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=1401



Caption: Spikelet. In cultivation. Oct 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: *Carex cirrhosa* showing spikelets

Photographer: John F. Hobbs, April 2005, Lake Rerewhakaaitu