



Carex colensoi

Common Name(s):

Colensos sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North (from northern Kaimanawa Ranges south, uncommon) and South Islands

Habitat:

Mostly montane to subalpine in short- tussock and tall-tussock grassland. Especially common in the drier intermontane basins of the eastern South Island.

Features*:

Patchy, diffuse long trailing light green, grass-like, rather slender tufted sedge arising from a long-creeping rhizome. Rhizome 2–3 mm diameter, woody, often much branched and knotted, with shoots spaced singly and evenly along it, 1.0–1.5 mm diameter at base. Culms rather variable in height, 40–450 × c.0.5 mm, trigonous, flaccid, glabrous; basal sheaths cream, grey, or light brown. Leaves usually < culms, occasionally = or > culms, 0.5–1.5 mm wide, soft, grass-like, channelled, occasionally almost flat, margins minutely serrulate just below trigonous tip. Inflorescence 10–15 mm long, of 1–4 clustered, shortly-peduncled, chestnut-brown spikes, subtended by a green, filiform, leaf-like bract, much > inflorescence, with margins minutely serrulate. Spikes androgynous, 7–10 × 2–5 mm, ovoid, male flowers at the base. Glumes = or slightly > utricles, ovate, subacute, brown, with a broad green midrib and broad silver hyaline margins. Utricles 2.5–3.5 × 1.5–2.0 mm, plano-convex, occasionally almost subtrigonous when mature, brown, shining, with nerves not distinct, margin of upper part finely scabrid; beak hardly developed, c.0.5 mm long; stipe c.0.5 mm long. Stigmas 2. Nut c.1.5 mm long, ± biconvex, elliptic-oblong to orbicular, brown with a distinct stipe c. 0.2 mm long.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

November - May

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=1402



Caption: Inflorescence. In cultivation ex Hawkdun Range. Dec 1986.

Photographer: Colin Ogle