



Carex forsteri

Common Name(s):

Forsters Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands. In the North Island common south of Auckland, in the South Island common in Marlborough Sounds and on Banks Peninsula, otherwise sporadic in its occurrences and not recorded from Westland or Fiordland.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (rarely subalpine). Usually in dense forest within high rainfall areas where it grows in wet seepages, depressions and along stream banks. A common species of karst country where it is often very conspicuous around sinkholes (tomo) and at cave entrances. Occasionally found around seepages in tall tussock grassland

Features*:

Large leafy tufts. Culms up to 0.9 m tall, 1.0-2.5 mm diameter, trigonous, smooth or occasionally slightly scabrid below inflorescence; basal sheaths dark red-brown. Leaves much > culms, up to 1.2 m long, 3-12 mm wide, double-folded, keel and margins scabrid. Inflorescence of 4-8 spikes; terminal 1-3 spikes wholly or partly male; remaining spikes female with some male flowers at the base, 25-110 × 5-11 mm, ± distant, ± pedunculate, lowest peduncles often long and slender and spikes drooping, green to grey-green. Glumes 2-5 mm. long, lanceolate, gradually tapering to a scabrid awn, membranous, light brown, with a narrow green midrib. Utricles = or slightly > glumes, 4-5 × c.1 mm, subtrigonus, lanceolate, slightly reflexed, turgid towards the base, distinctly many-nerved, greenish brown, gradually tapering to a beak 1.5-2.0 mm long with an oblique, bifid, scabrid orifice. Stigmas 3. Nut 1.5-2.0 mm long, trigonous, elliptic-obovoid, cream to dark brown

Flowering:

September - November

Fruiting:

October - 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=1408



Caption: Porirua Scenic Reserve. Dec 2006.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Porirua Scenic Reserve. Dec 2006. Spikelet.

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