



Carex hectorii

Common Name(s):

Hectors Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known only from Mt Taranaki (Eganaki/Taramont) and adjacent Pouakai Range. In the South Island widespread in Nelson and Central Otago.

Habitat:

A species of montane, subalpine to alpine wetlands, favouring flushes, cushion bogs, seepages or the margins of tarns, ponds usually within tussock grassland.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous, loosely tufted blue-green to red-green sedge of open damp ground, seepages, and flushes in tussock grassland, or fringing cushion bogs, tarns and ponds. Culms 20-120 x 0.5 mm, usually obscured within light brown leaf-sheaths. Leaves longer than culms, 0.5-1.5 mm wide, blue-green (rarely wine red, red-green to bright green), erect, rigid, lamina plano-convex at the base but flattening or occasionally subtrigonal towards the subacute apex, margins distinctly scabrid near the apex.

Inflorescence of 3-4 contiguous, sessile or shortly pedunculate spikes 0.5-15 mm long. Spikes subtended by rigid, leaf-like bracts; these longer than inflorescence. Terminal spike male, remaining spikes female. Glumes 2.2-2.4 mm long, lanceolate, acuminate, or cuspidate, membranous, brown, with membranous margins and pale green midrib. Utricles 2.5-3 x 1.5-2 mm, trigonal, elliptic-ovoid, spreading, conspicuously multi-nerved when immature, maturing glossy and more or less smooth, dark brown; beak 0.5 mm long, slender, acutely bifid, margins usually ciliate-serrate above; stipe short. Stigmas 3. Nut trigonal.

Flowering:

September - December

Fruiting:

October - July

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=1410



Caption: Old Man Range
Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Pisa Range
Photographer: John Barkla