



Carex libera

Common Name(s):

Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, North West Nelson.

Habitat:

A species found in open, damp sites such as along stream sides, in seepages and around small pools, ponds, and tarns. Known to range from lowland to subalpine habitats. Often found in montane forest and in tussock grassland.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous; somewhat openly tufted, dingy reddish green, red to red-green sedge. Culms 10-80 x 1 mm, cylindrical, glabrous; shorter culms almost hidden by brownish leaf sheaths. Leaves > culms, up to 250 x 0.5-1 mm, rather spreading but not drooping, somewhat coriaceous, concavo-convex, paler on undersides, margins finely scabrid toward apex. Inflorescence of 3-5, close-packed, sessile spikes; terminal spike male, erect, usually reddish brown to brownish; subtending bracts numerous, leaf-like, glumes (excluding awns) usually slightly less than utricles, ovate, often emarginated and cuspidate. Reddish brown with a distinctly thicker green midrib, sometimes uniformly red-brown. Utricles 2-3 x 1-1.5 mm, plano-convex, ovoid-ellipsoid, light grey-green or yellow-brown toward base, spotted with red or dark red-purple in distinct patches toward apex, nerves distinct, whitish; beak rather short (up to 0.5 mm), slightly narrowed, usually spotted red-purple, margins glabrous, crura shortly bidentate to almost truncate, scabrid; stipe minute, scarcely narrower than utricle. Stigmas 3. Nut 1 x 1 mm. dark brown, obovoid, trigonous with rounded angles.

Flowering:

October - January

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=1413



Caption: In cultivation. Oct 2007.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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