



Carex ochrosaccus

Common Name(s):

Forest Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island, mostly from Whangarei and Dargaville South to the Bay of Plenty and Mokau River. South of there is a sparsely distributed species, ranging about as far south as the Manawatu Gorge.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland usually in damp situations within alluvial forest but also along stream banks and within coastal seepages. Sometimes forming extensive sedgelands within willow carr.

Features*:

Densely tufted and robust sedge, 0.45-1.00 m tall. Culms 1.0-1.5 mm diameter, trigonous, smooth; basal sheaths red-brown, yellow-brown or grey-brown. Leaves > culms, 3-4 mm wide, double-folded, light green, glossy, margins slightly scabrid. Spikes 5-7; terminal 1(-2) spikes male, occasionally mixed with female flowers; remaining spikes female, 15-60 × 5-7 mm, shortly pedunculate, erect, distant, the lower often compound. Glumes (excluding awn) < utricles, ovate, acute or emarginate, pale cream flecked with small brown striae, membranous, midrib green, produced to a very fine scabrid awn c. 1/2 length of glume. Utricles 2.5-3.0 × c.1.0 mm, ellipsoid, turgid, light yellow-brown, occasionally darker brown, especially towards the top, distinctly nerved, margins near the top finely scabrid, gradually tapering to the narrow bifid beak, c.0.5 mm. long, orifice scabrid. Stigmas 3. Nut c. 1.5 mm. long, trigonous, light brown

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

Throughout the year.

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=1415



Caption: Gordon Park, Wanganui. Feb 2007.

Photographer: Colin Ogle



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