



Carex petriei

Common Name(s):

Petrie's Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. In the North Island scarce, known only from the Moawhango area (where it may now be extinct). In the South Island throughout except – apparently – Westland. Scarce on Stewart Island.

Habitat:

A species of montane to subalpine river flats, stream sides, and lake, pond and tarn margins. It may also be found in seepages within tussock grassland.

Features*:

Densely tufted, erect to loosely spreading small red to dark wine-red tussocks. Culms 60-350 x 0.5-1 mm, glabrous, terete or flattened; basal sheaths light brown, occasionally red to reddish brown. Leaves usually slightly > culms, 0.5-2 mm wide, pink or greenish red, lamina narrow-linear, concavo-convex, grooved on the back, showing 2 conspicuous nerves on the upper surface, margins scabrid, apex acute, curled and twisted when dry; sheaths very wide, about 3 times width of lamina. Spikes 3-6, very dark red-brown, more or less approximate, though usually with the lowest more distant on stiff, erect peduncles; terminal spike male; remaining spikes female, usually with a few male flowers above, 1-30 x 3-6 mm. Glumes < or sometimes > utricles, rather pale brown, chartaceous-membranous becoming chaffy, margins lacerate, apex acute or with the midrib prolonged into a long scabrid awn. Utricles 2.5 x 1.5 mm, plano-convex, turgid, very dark red to almost black though paler towards the apex and base, sometimes light brown throughout, smooth or faintly nerved; beak slightly > 0.5 mm long, usually cream. Stigmas 3. Nut 1.5 mm long, dull brown, trigonous, oblong-obovoid.

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

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=1416



Caption: Utricule; Clarence River valley below Lake Tennyson
Photographer: Pat Enright



Caption: Utricles and glumes; Clarence River valley below L Tennyson
Photographer: Pat Enright