



Carex resectans

Common Name(s):

Desert Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands. Mainly easterly and uncommon in the North Island where it found from about the Hawkes Bay south.

Habitat:

Coastal to alpine. Usually on consolidated sand and alluvium in free draining usually very dry (though often seasonally flooded) habitats in short-tussock grassland, rough pasture, or in river beds or lake margins.

Features*:

Rhizomatous; yellow-green to dark green sedge, usually forming a dense sward, or small circular patches. Rhizome 1.0-1.5 mm diameter, woody, much-branched, long-creeping, with shoots spaced singly and evenly along it, c.1 mm diameter at base. Culms 5-40 mm tall, completely hidden by the leaf-sheaths; basal sheaths light grey-brown or chestnut. Leaves much > culms, 20-100 × c.0.5 mm, plano-convex towards the tip, involute towards the base, wiry, margins scabrid especially towards the long trigonous tip. Inflorescence a pale green, compact head, 4-8 mm long, orbicular-ovate, with 1-3 crowded spikes, subtended by 2-3 leaf-like bracts. Spikes androgynous, few-flowered, male flowers 1-3 at base of spike, occasionally 0, female flowers 3-8. Glumes < or rarely = utricles, ovate or ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, hyaline, keel stout, green, 1-3-nerved. Utricles 3-4 × 1.5-2.0 mm, plano-convex, prominently nerved, light brown; contracted above to a narrow green beak c.1.5 mm long, margins minutely toothed, orifice bifid; stipe not markedly contracted, c.0.1 mm long. Stigmas 2. Nut c.1.5 mm long, plano-convex, obovoid to almost orbicular, brown, shining, shortly stipitate

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

November - April

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=1417



Caption: In cultivation ex Turakirae Head. Oct 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Mt Iron

Photographer: John Barkla