



## *Carex spinirostris*

### **Common Name(s):**

Coastal Sedge, Petrel Scrub Sedge

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. North Island from Te Pahi south to the Horowhenua and Wairarapa. Most common in northern part of range, particularly along the coast and on many of the Hauraki Gulf islands.

### **Habitat:**

Favouring coastal to lowland forest, usually in semi-shaded sites on banks, colluvium or gently sloping sites overlying free draining, fertile soils. Also a conspicuous sedge of offshore islands in the Hauraki Gulf where it is one of the main species found under forest within petrel colonies.

### **Features\*:**

Densely caespitose, tufted, dark green sedge of high fertility sites in shaded coastal forest, lowland forest and forested offshore islands (especially within petrel colonies). Culms 0.1-1.2 m x 1.5-2 mm; basal sheaths dark red-purple. Leaves equal to or greater than culms, 2.5-6 mm wide, double-folded, with keel and margins distinctly scabrid. Inflorescence of 4-6-8 spikes; terminal spike male, often compound, with female flowers intermixed in the secondary spikes; remaining spikes female with a few male flowers at the base, equal to or slightly longer than male spikes, 15-85(-100) x 3-4 mm, uppermost spikes closet set, shortly pedunculate, lowermost spikes rather distant, drooping on slender filiform peduncles; subtending bracts leaf-like, much longer than inflorescence, almost the same width as foliage leaves. Glumes equal to or slightly than utricles in length, bright red-purple, rather membranous, deciduous, lanceolate, subacute to almost emarginated, midrib extended as a long scabrid awn. Utricles 3-4 x 1 mm, triquetrous, fusiform, conspicuously ribbed with pale veins, margins smooth, pale grey below, above bright red and narrowed (often rather abruptly) to a 1.5 mm long beak; crura scabrid; stipe 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 3. Nut 2 mm long, yellow, yellow-brown or rarely light brown, oblong, trigonous.

### **Flowering:**

August - October

### **Fruiting:**

September - March

### **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=1421](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1421)



**Caption:** North Cape. Feb 2011.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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