



Carex testacea

Common Name(s):

Speckled Sedge, Trip Me Up

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands. Uncommon in the South Island.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. In sand dunes, coastal forest and scrub, dense forest or short tussock (*Festuca novae-zelandiae* (Hack.) Cockayne) grassland.

Features*:

Densely tufted, 0.3-0.6(-0.8) m high, usually dark red to orange-red sedge. Culms < or > leaves, often exceedingly elongated at maturity, up to 2 m long, trailing, prostrate, < 1 mm diameter, often almost filiform, trigonous or subtrigonous, glabrous or slightly scabrid below the inflorescence; basal sheaths dark brown or red-brown, nerves distinct. Leaves 1.0-2.5(-3.0) mm wide, channelled, usually reddish or orange-green, sometime slight green, harshly scabrid. Spikes 3-5, ± approximate; terminal spike male, c. 1 mm diameter, ± = female spikes in length, on a filiform peduncle; remaining spikes female, 5-25(-30) × c. 5 mm, often with a few male flowers at the base, sessile, or the lowest more distant and shortly pedunculate. Glumes (excluding awn) ± = utricle, broadly ovate, thin and membranous, often deeply emarginate, occasionally entire, very light brown with darker flecks, midrib usually brown-spotted, produced to a scabrid awn of variable length. Utricles c. 2.5 × 1.5 mm, ± plano-convex, broadly ovoid, pale yellow-brown below, purple-brown above, nerved, more strongly so on the more convex face, shining, narrowed abruptly to the deeply bifid beak c. 0.5 mm long, margins and orifice usually finely scabrid, occasionally ± contracted below to a stipe c. 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 2. Nut c. 1.5 mm long, biconvex, dark brown, almost black.

Flowering:

September - December

Fruiting:

November - May (but may be present 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=1424



Caption: Otama Beach, February
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: At Otama Beach, February
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth