



Carex wakatipu

Common Name(s):

Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island except apparently Fiordland. Scarce in Westland.

Habitat:

Mostly upper montane to alpine (450-1800 m a.s.l.). The most commonly encountered, large carex sedge found in snow-tussock (*Chionochloa*) grassland, though it can at times be abundant in short-tussock grassland. It has occasionally been collected from quite low altitudes (< 450 m a.s.l.) on lake margins.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous; very variable in size, tufts dark green, reddish green or yellow-green. Culms 40-500 × c.1 mm, subtrigonus, glabrous or occasionally faintly scabrid below inflorescence, sunk among the leaves or sometimes elongating far beyond the leaves and drooping; basal sheaths dark brown or red-purple, nerves ± distinct. Leaves 2-4 mm. wide, ± erect or spreading, channelled, margins scarcely scabrid at base with well-spaced teeth towards tip. Spikes 4(-6), closely packed, at about the same level on the culm; terminal spike male, much more slender than and usually > female spikes; female spikes male at the base and occasionally at the top, 10-20 × c.5 mm, shortly pedunculate. Glumes slightly < utricles, broadly ovate, usually emarginate, sometimes almost entire, occasionally red-brown, usually very light brown flecked with darker brown striae, membranous, midrib very broad, very pale brown, produced to a short scabrid awn. Utricles 2.5-3/0 × c.2.0 mm, plano-convex or unequally biconvex, broadly elliptic-ovoid, pale brown flecked with red-brown striae below, or darker brown throughout, occasionally almost black, turgid, nerved, margins usually glabrous; beak c.0.3 mm long with a broad, ciliate, shortly bifid orifice; stipe c.0.2 mm long. Stigmas 2. Nut slightly > 1.5 mm long, biconvex, almost orbicular

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=1427



Caption: Old Man Range

Photographer: John Barkla



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