



Carex dipsacea

Common Name(s):

Teasel Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands. Widespread from about the northern Waikato South. Naturalised around Auckland City

Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine. Favouring wetlands this species usually grows along rivers, lakes and ponds within sand dunes, tall forest, shrubland, and tussock grassland.

Features*:

Tufts dense, harsh, 0.25-1.00 m tall, light green, dark green, red-green or orange. Culms 0.5-2.0 mm diameter, trigonous or subtrigonous, smooth or occasionally slightly scabrid towards inflorescence; basal sheaths dark brown, red-, yellow-, or grey-brown, nerves \pm distinct. Leaves numerous, $>$ culms, 1.5-2.5 mm wide, channelled, margins closely scabrid. Spikes 4-8, upper approximate, \pm sessile, lower 1-3 usually more distant, shortly pedunculate, erect; terminal spike male, occasionally with female flowers intermixed, remaining spikes female, often male at base; lower spikes 10-40 \times 4-6 mm, upper spikes progressively smaller. Glumes \pm = or slightly $<$ utricles, orbicular-ovate, obtuse, membranous, creamy brown or darker flecked, midrib light brown, 3-nerved, not reaching margin or in some glumes produced to a very short mucro. Utricles 2.0-2.8 \times c. 1.5 mm, crowded on spike, spreading when ripe, unequally biconvex or almost plano-convex, elliptic-ovoid, yellow-brown at base, upper half with darker red-brown markings and us. scabrid margins, shining, smooth, abruptly narrowed to a small cream bifid beak c.0.2 mm. long, margins and orifice faintly scabrid. Stigmas 2. Nut slightly $>$ 1 mm long, biconvex, ellipsoid, cream at first, later very dark brown

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

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=1428



Caption: Lake Westmere, Whanganui. Feb 2013

Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Female and male (top of stem) heads. Lake Westmere, Whanganui. Feb 2013.

Photographer: Colin Ogle