



Carex astonii

Common Name(s):

Astons Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic to the North Island, where it is apparently only known from the Kaimanawa and Ruahine Ranges.

Habitat:

Montane, subalpine to alpine river terraces, back swamps and on the margins of mires.

Features*:

Small, reddish, tufted sedge. Mature culms 100-200 mm, smooth, terete, basal sheaths grey-brown or light-brown. Leaves > culms, up to 350 mm long x 0.7-1.2 mm wide, plano or concavo-convex, reddish, margins scabrid, apex curled (cirrhose). Inflorescence of 4-6 sessile spikes, lower most distant, upper approximate. Terminal spike male, rest female, these usually with male flowers at the base. Spikes 5-10(-150) x 3-5 mm, ovate or cylindrical. Glumes = to or < urticles, broadly ovate or oblong, pale brown with light red markings, emarginate, green midrib forming a short scabrid awn < 0.5 (rarely 1 mm) long. Utricles 2 x 1-1.3 mm, ovoid to rhomboid, usually trigonous, yellowish and red near tip, glossy, faintly ribbed, beak minute, black or red-brown, smooth, crura entire or bidentate, scabrid. Stigmas 3. Nut 1 x 1 mm, elliptic-obovoid, trigonous, cream to dark brown.

Flowering:

No information available

Fruiting:

No information available

Threats:

Rather local in its occurrences. Many of the habitats it was once recorded from in the 1950s and 1960s are now occupied by taller, faster growing weeds.

*Attribution:

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=151



Caption: The Bowery, Waiouru
army training area, Sept 1990
Photographer: Colin Ogle