



Carex acicularis

Common Name(s):

sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands. In the North Island confined to the main axial Mountains from the Raukumara Range South including the Volcanic Plateau. In the South and Stewart Islands widespread.

Habitat:

A montane to subalpine (sometimes coastal in the southern part of its range) sedge of wet open stony ground, damp seepages in scrub or forest or within tussock grassland.

Features*:

Diminutive, shortly rhizomatous, swarding yellow-green to dark green, sedge forming small tufts and mats amongst stones and in damp depressions within forest and tussock grassland. Culms 20-200 x 0.5 mm, terete, smooth; basal sheaths chestnut-brown or yellow-brown. Leaves slightly < culms (occasionally overtopping them), 0.5 mm wide, hair-like, plano-convex, canaliculated, strict, yellow-green to dark green, margins scabrid towards the obtuse apex. Inflorescence solitary. Spike 5 mm long, the lowermost glume bracteate, female flowers 2-6, equally or overtopping male flowers. Glumes longer than or of equal length to utricles, ovate, acute, brown with green midrib. Utricles 3-5 x 1 mm, lanceolate. Smooth; tapering to a dark beak 1-2 mm long with distinctly scabrid margins and oblique crura; stipe 1 mm long. Stigmas 3. Rhachilla enclosed within utricle, 2-2.3 mm long, linear, margins scabrid, apex surmounted by a minute, red appendage. Nut 2 mm long, oblong-trigonous, smooth.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

October - June

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.

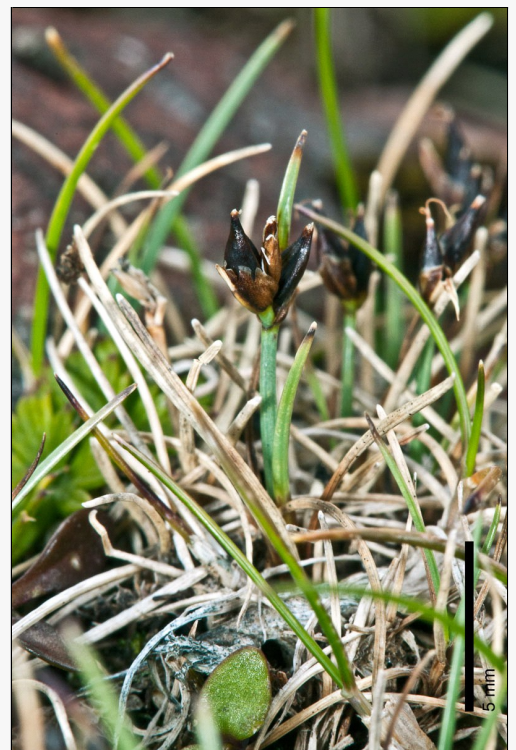
Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1588



Caption: Mount Ruapehu. Feb 2012.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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