



## *Carex cockayneana*

### **Common Name(s):**

Cockaynes sedge

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (uncommon, near Wellington), South Island (scattered mainly in the west)

### **Habitat:**

Montane to subalpine. Usually along stream sides in montane forest or in subalpine scrub. Sometimes extending into tall tussock grassland where it grows around seepages, springs or tarns.

### **Features\*:**

Culms 150-600 × 1-2 mm, smooth, trigonous, often drooping; basal sheaths dark red-brown. Leaves > culms, up to 800.0 × 3.0-6.5 mm. wide, double-folded, margins of upper half sharply scabrid. Inflorescence of 2-8 ± distant, red-brown or light brown spikes, the upper sessile, the lower drooping on filiform peduncles; terminal 1 (-2) spikes entirely male or with few to numerous female flowers at the top, remaining spikes female with a few ± distant male flowers at the base, 10-70 × 5-10 mm. Glumes (excluding awn) ± = or slightly > utricles, ovate-lanceolate, acute and entire or slightly emarginate, membranous, light red-brown with a thickened green midrib produced to a slightly scabrid awn 1-2 mm long. Utricles 3-4 × c.1 mm, unequally biconvex, fusiform, conspicuously costate when immature, turgid, smooth and slightly spreading when mature, yellowish brown, margins glabrous; beak narrow, 0.5-1.0 mm long, very shortly bifid, orifice slightly scabrid; stipe < 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 3. Nut 1.5-2.0 mm long, trigonous, obovoid-ellipsoid, dark brown.

### **Flowering:**

October - December

### **Fruiting:**

November - May

### **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:**

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