



Carex kirkii var. *elatio*r

Common Name(s):

sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island, North-West Nelson (Mt Arthur Plateau) and Otago (Mt St Bathans)

Habitat:

Unclear. Known only from gatherings made at two locations: - the Mt Arthur Plateau at 1200 m a.s.l. and from Mt St Bathans (at 900 m a.s.l.). The type variety grows in snow-tussock (*Chionochloa*) grassland and herbfield.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous, bright to dark green densely tufted sedge. Culms much >> leaves, 80-210 × c.0.5 mm diameter, triquetrous, smooth, upper part not enclosed by leaf-sheaths; basal sheaths chestnut. Leaves 3-5 per culm, 90-350 × 0.5-1.5 mm, involute or flattened, wiry, striated, scabrid towards the acute tip. Inflorescence a compound spike, 10-40 × c. 5 mm, pale green or pale brown. Spikes distant, especially the lower ones, which may be with or without a subtending leaf-like bract; androgynous, male flowers terminal, occasionally absent in the lower spike. Glumes = or slightly >, rarely < utricles, ovate-lanceolate, acuminate or acute, membranous, light brown or almost colourless, midrib light green, prominent in the lowermost glumes and often scabrid towards the tip. Utricles 4.0-4.5 × c.1 mm, plano-convex, elliptic-obovoid, ± papillose, strongly nerved slightly winged; beak 1.5-2.0 mm long, scabrid on the margins, orifice oblique, bifid; stipe minute or absent. Stigmas 2. Nut c.2 mm long, plano-convex, oblong, shortly stipitate

Flowering:

Unknown

Fruiting:

Unknown

Threats:

Unknown. This variety is only known from the type gatherings from the Arthur Plateau and from a single gathering from Mt St Bathans all made in the late 1800s. It has not been collected from the wild since. This variety may be extinct. However, as no specific surveys for it have been undertaken a definitive conservation assessment cannot yet be made.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (110 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970) and from examination of type material held at AK (see images).

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington and from examination of type material held at AK (see images).

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1592