



## *Carex kirkii* var. *kirkii*

### Common Name(s):

Kirks sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island North-West Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago.

### Habitat:

Alpine (900-1900 m a.s.l.). Usually in snow-tussock (*Chionochloa*) grassland, associated herbfield and on semi-consolidated talus.

### Features\*:

Shortly rhizomatous, bright to dark green densely tufted sedge. Culms much << leaves, 10-40 × c.0.5 mm diameter, triquetrous, smooth, mostly hidden by leaf-sheaths; basal sheaths chestnut. Leaves 3-5 per culm, 30-200 × c.0.5 mm, involute, wiry, striated, scabrid towards the acute tip. Inflorescence a compound spike 10-15 × c.5 mm, pale green or pale brown; subtended by a conspicuous leaf-like bract. Spikes crowded, 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:

November - December

### Fruiting:

December - February

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (110 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=1593](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1593)



**Caption:** Old Woman Range.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe from a specimen collected by Graeme Jane



**Caption:** In cultivation. Oct 2007.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe