



## *Carpha alpina*

### Common Name(s):

Carpha

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand known from the North, South, Stewart and Auckland Islands. In the North Island it is known locally from te Moehau south becoming more common along the main axial ranges and on the volcanic plateau.

### Habitat:

Coastal to alpine in bogs, mires and other moderately open shrublands overlying poorly drained soils and peat. In the northern part of its range strictly montane to alpine, descending to the coast on the west coast and southern portion of the South Island, Stewart and Auckland Islands.

### Features\*:

Tufted perennial sedge. Culms 30-750 x 0.5-1.5 mm, grooved, flaccid or rigid (often with curled or curved apices). Leaves numerous, grey-green or red-green, 50-300 x 0.5-2.0 mm, usually <, though occasionally > culms, rigid, lamina narrow-linear, flat or concavo-convex, apex obtuse; sheath broad, brown, shining; lower portion of lamina and mouth of sheath minutely serrulate. Inflorescence a terminal corymb, occasionally condensed to form a compact head, or comprising discrete spikelets in 4-6 loose stalked clusters; bracts subtending inflorescence 1-2, foliaceous; bracts subtending spikelets plumose. Spikelets 8-12 mm long, pale and lustrous, 1-flowered. Glumes usually 5, lanceolate, more or less obtuse, stiffly membranous, keeled the 2 lower shorter, the next larger pair subtending the flower, the fifth glume setaceous. Hypogynous bristles 6, plumose with silky hairs almost to the apex, then scabrid, > glumes when mature. Nut 2.5-3.0 mm long, stipitate, pale to dark brown, surmounted by the dried and rigid, long, narrow, smooth or minutely hairy style-base.

### Flowering:

November - January

### Fruiting:

February - May

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*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=1604](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1604)



**Caption:** Steele Creek, Greenstone  
**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Lammermoor Range  
1000m  
**Photographer:** Rowan Hindmarsh-Walls