



Gahnia xanthocarpa

Common Name(s):

Gahnia, mapere

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island (from Te Pahi south to Wellington but uncommon, or absent over some parts of this range), South Island (Nelson, Marlborough, Westland and Canterbury - where it is very uncommon).

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 800 m a.s.l. - possibly more). Occupying a diverse range of habitats and vegetation associations, *Gahnia xanthocarpa* seems to prefer permanently damp situations within alluvial forest, swamp forest and the margins of lowland swamps, bogs and waterways

Features*:

Robust perennial sedge arising from a lignaceous rootstock up to 30 mm diameter and forming densely tufted dark green tussocks up to 3.5 m tall. Culms 10 mm diameter (but up to 15 mm diameter at the base). Leaves = to or slightly < culms, not usually overtopping the panicle; lamina dark glossy green above, paler beneath, surfaces harshly scabrid, margins involute, ciliate just above the transverse line demarcating the sheath from the lamina, becoming more intensely scabrid higher up with a few longitudinal rows of teeth just inside the margin on the lamina undersides; sheaths dull, light pinkish brown, glabrous up to 40 mm wide. Panicles set well above foliage, drooping, 0.6-1.5 m long, heavily branched, primary branchlets up to 450 mm long. Spikelets 2-flowered, c.8 mm long, numerous, densely crowded, stalked, light chestnut-brown. Glumes 6-7; outer 3-4 empty, more or less equal, 7-8 mm long; inner 3 glumes smaller, 5-6 mm long, red-brown, or green-brown below and red brown towards apices. Stamens 4, bright red-brown. Style-branches 3-4. Nut 5-6 x 2-3 mm, fusiform, bright yellow maturing glossy black when fully ripe, sometimes slightly grooved, shortly stipitate, with a light orange-brown, obtuse, pubescent apex; endocarp transversely grooved within.

Flowering:

January -
April

Fruiting:

Fruits may be found throughout the year

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (30 October 2005).
Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

References and further reading:

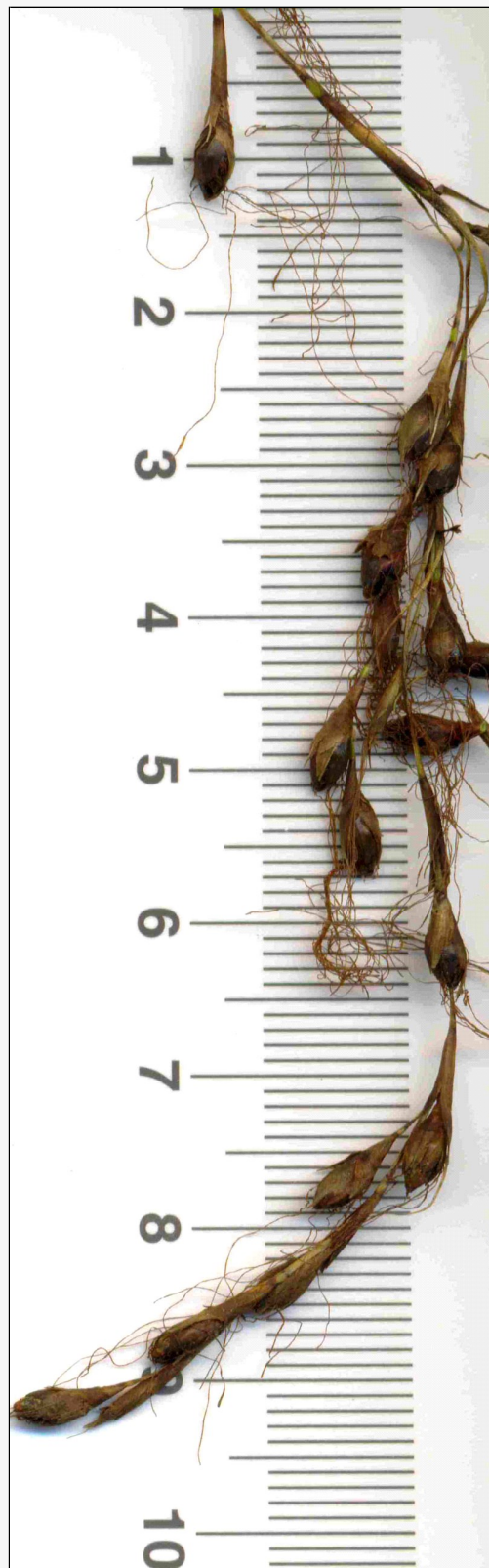
Gardner, R.O. 1995. Identifying *Gahnia setifolia* and *G. xanthocarpa*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 50: 82-83.

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* 11: 285-309

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1908



Caption: Seeds of *Gahnia xanthocarpa*

Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: Fruit. Gordon Park Scenic Reserve, Wanganui.

Photographer: Colin Ogle