



## *Carex appressa*

### Common Name(s):

southern cutty grass, tussock sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Indigenous. North Island (Cook Strait region only), South Island (scattered, more common in the southern regions), Stewart, Chatham, Antipodes, Auckland and Campbell Islands. Also New Caledonia, Australia and New Guinea. Naturalised around Auckland City.

### Habitat:

Mostly coastal, extending to montane in the subantarctic islands. Preferring open situations, usually on the margins of peat bogs or peaty, slow-flowing streams.

### Features\*:

Stout, rhizomatous sedge, forming robust, harsh and rigid, dark green tussocks. Culms 0.2–1.4 m tall, 3.0–6.5 mm wide, acutely trigonous, angles prominently scabrid above; basal sheaths shining, light to dark grey-brown, rarely purple-brown. Leaves usually > culms, 3–7 mm wide, channelled, stiffly erect, immature leaves with pungent apices, margins and keel very scabrid. Inflorescence an erect, elongated, mostly compact, stiff panicle 60–250 x 10–30 mm, usually interrupted below, branchlets us. < 35 mm long, more crowded above, appressed to inflorescence axis. Spikes 5–6 mm long, red-brown, ovoid, androgynous, male flowers terminal. Glumes slightly < utricles, ovate, acute, often furnished with a short scabrid mucro, brown with lighter brown midrib. Utricles c.2.5–3.5 x 1.5 mm, plano-convex, conspicuously many-nerved, dark brown; tapered to a beak 1.0–1.5 mm long, margins distinctly toothed, orifice bifid; sharply constricted to a narrow stipe 2–4 mm. long. Stigmas 2. Nut c.1.5 mm. long, plano-convex, oblong-obovoid, light or dark brown.

### Flowering:

September - December

### Fruiting:

December - June

### 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. On the Chatham Islands *C. appressa* appears to intergrade with, or hybridise with *C. virgata*.

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=2028](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2028)



**Caption:** Boulder Beach, Otago Peninsula

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Enderby Island

**Photographer:** John Barkla