



Carex breviculmis

Common Name(s):

grassland sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous, North and South Islands. Also Australia, New Guinea, Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Usually in open grassland, gum land scrub, clay pans, on rock stacks, and talus slopes and other similar sparsely vegetated sites.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous; tufted sedge usually forming low-growing, close-packed, bright green patches. Culms hidden among leaves, usually 10-20 mm long; basal sheaths dull brown. Leaves much > culms, 1.5-3.0 mm wide, grass-like, recurved, channelled, margins exceedingly finely and closely scabrid almost throughout. Spikes 2-5, approximate, pale green; terminal spike male, usually sessile; remaining spikes female, occasionally with a few male flowers at the top, 6-9 mm long, ± pedunculate, clustered round base of male spike; subtending bracts leaf-like, very narrow-linear, the uppermost almost filiform, margins finely scabrid. Glumes > utricles, ovate, pale green, almost white, membranous, midrib green, stiff, thickened, produced to a stout, finely hispid awn. Utricles c.2.5 × 1.0 mm, biconvex or subtrigonal, fusiform, pale yellow-green, faintly many-nerved, pubescent all over; beak slightly narrowed, pale green, c.0.5 mm long, orifice ± truncate; stipe c.0.3 mm long, often much contracted. Stigmas 3. Nut c.1.5 mm long, obtusely trigonal, oblong, obovoid, light brown, surmounted by a minute, persistent, dilated style-base.

Flowering:

August - December

Fruiting:

October - May

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=2029



Caption: Mangatoetoe Stream, Palliser Bay. Growing in partial shade.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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