



Schoenus carsei

Common Name(s):

Carse's Schoenus

Current Threat Status (2012):

Nationally Endangered

Distribution:

an historic southern Indigenous. Present In Australia. In New Zealand confined to the North Island where it is now known from North Cape to Hinehopu mire in the Rotorua Lakes district. It formerly grew at Ngaere Swamp (Taranaki)

Habitat:

Coastal, lowland to montane. Usually in moderately fertile to acid wetlands. Often on the margins of burn pools or other slow moving water channels, where it often grows in association with *Baumea rubiginosa*, *B. teretifolia*, *Tetraria capillaris* and *Empodisma minus*. Occasionally associated with the margins of small ephemeral dune ponds.

Features*:

Stout rush-like sedge of mid-acid to acidic peat bogs and mires. Rhizomes short, 3 mm diam., covered in closely appressed red-purple bracts. Culms 600-900 mm, c.1 mm diam., densely tufted light green, grass-green to orange-green. Leaves reduced to brown, mucronate sheaths, the uppermost mucro often elongating greatly, mouth of sheath not ciliate. Panicle 80-150(-220) mm long, very slender, fascicles distant, of 3-4 branchlets, subtended by short sheath similar to those of culm base; branchlets filiform, flexuous, simple or branched again. Spikelets single at tips of branchlets, 7-10 mm, 2-flowered, very narrow, compressed, linear lanceolate, grey-brown. Glumes 5-7, imbricating, lanceolate, acute, hyaline except near midrib, margins not ciliate, 3-4 lower glumes, upper most glume empty. Hypogenous bristles 0(-3), minute. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut 2 x 1 mm, oblong-ovoid, obtuse, smooth, white.

Flowering:

(September-)October to January

Fruiting:

December-May

Threats:

Threatened by wetland drainage, eutrophication, modification and the spread of naturalised wetland weeds. There are few recent records, and the majority of these come from the Whangamarino and Opuatia wetlands in the Huntly Basin.

*Attribution:

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970).

References and further reading:

Gardner, R.O. 1998. *Schoenus carsei* and *Tetraria capillaris*. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 53: 38-40.

Gardner, R.O. 1998. *Schoenus carsei* revisited. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 53: 56-57.

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: *Flora of New Zealand*. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=203



Caption: Close up, *Schoenus carsei* at Whangamarino

Photographer: Bec Stanley



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