



Carex inversa

Common Name(s):

creeping lawn sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands

Habitat:

Coastal to montane - but mostly coastal to lowland. In scrub, open forest, and grassland. A common urban weed of lawns in northern New Zealand. This species has probably become more common as a result of human colonisation of the country.

Features*:

Rhizomatous, extensively creeping yellow-green to green sedge. Plants variable in size, usually flaccid, forming a matted sward. Rhizome long-creeping, to 2 mm diameter, covered by closely appressed brown scales or their fibrous remains; shoots \pm distant, singly from the rhizome, c. 1 mm diameter at base including basal sheaths. Culms 20-450 \times c. 0.5-1.0 mm, weak, smooth, green to yellow-green, obtusely trigonous; basal sheaths pale brown almost cream. Leaves $<$ mature culms, 0.5-1.5 mm wide, channelled to flat, soft, grass-like, margins usually smooth or very minutely scabrid towards tip. Inflorescence a pale green or bright green ovate head, c.10 mm long, of 2-5 closely packed \pm sessile spikes, or occasionally 1-2 spikes distant from the rest; bracts subtending inflorescence and lower spikes green and leafy, much longer than inflorescence. Spikes androgynous, 4-8 mm long, male flowers 1-3 at base of spikes, occasionally 0. Glumes $<$ utricles, ovate, acuminate, white or pale brown, with a green, faintly scabrid keel. Utricles 3.0-3.5 \times c.1.5 mm, plano-convex, ovoid, elliptical, distinctly nerved on convex face, light greenish brown; narrowed to a scabrid beak c.1 mm long; stipe slightly $>$ 0.5 mm long, pale cream. Stigmas 2. Nut c.1.5 mm. long, plano-convex, broadly oblong, shortly stipitate, light to dark brown.

Flowering:

Throughout the year

Fruiting:

Throughout the year

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=2033



Caption: *Carex inversa*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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