



Carex pumila

Common Name(s):

sand sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand: North, South and Chatham Islands. Uncommon in parts of the South Island. Also recorded from Australia, Lord Howe Island, Chile, China, Japan and Korea.

Habitat:

Mostly coastal, rarely extending inland. A species of mobile sand dunes, sand flats and dune slacks (swales). Sometimes found fringing the sandy margins of coastal rivers and lagoons. Occasionally found as an urban lawn weed, especially in coastal settlements.

Features*:

Deep blue-green to glaucous, tufted sedge; tufts coarse, arising from a long, wiry creeping rhizome of c.2 mm diameter Culms mostly buried in sand, 50–300 mm long, terete, smooth, cream or light green, almost entirely enclosed by light brown or cream, occasionally red-brown leaf-sheaths. Leaves > culms, up to 400 mm long, 1.5–.0 mm. wide, channelled, rigid, glaucous, curved and tapering to a fine point, margins mostly smooth. Spikes 3–8, ± approximate; terminal spike male, often long-pedunculate, very slender, often with 1–3 very small, occasionally partly female, spikes at the base; remaining spikes female, often male at the top, 10–35 x c.10 mm. Glumes c.1/2 length of utricles, rarely only slightly < utricles, ovate, acute, red-brown, with broad colourless hyaline margins, midrib very pale brown, thickened, usually produced to a short awn. Utricles 6.0–7.5 x 2.0–3.5 mm, biconvex to subtrigonal, ovoid, light brown, thick, corky, turgid, smooth or faintly nerved, narrowed to a bifid beak, 1.5–2.0 mm long, orifice membranous, crura faintly scabrid at tip. Stigmas 3. Nut 2.5–4.0 x 1.5–2.5 mm., trigonal, obovoid, light brown, shortly mucronate.

Flowering:

October - 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.

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=2034



Caption: Te Paki stream, Northland
Photographer: John Sawyer



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