



Schoenus caespitans

Common Name(s):

none known

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands, from the north-western Ruahines south and east to Cape Palliser, on DUrville Island and eastern Marlborough to the Hunter Hills, South Canterbury.

Habitat:

Coastal to subalpine (up to 1100 m a.s.l.). In open ground, and under sparse scrub where it is usually found on damp clay but also in seasonally dry, poorly drained soils, and on ultramafic substrates (and then found around seepages and tarns). Often in short-tussock or silver tussock (*Poa cita* Edgar) grassland.

Features*:

Densely tufted, caespitose sedge. Culms numerous, 15-60(-200) mm long, less than or equal to 0.5 mm diameter, densely packed at base, otherwise rather flaccid, unbranched, glabrous, occasionally finely scabrid just below inflorescence. Leaves 20-600(-800) mm long, usually equal to or greater than the culm length; yellow green to dull green, linear to very narrow-linear, acute, channelled, margins slightly scabrid; sheaths membranous, reddish to red-purple. Panicle of 2-3 mostly densely clustered (rarely distant) fascicles, the terminal usually with sessile to subsessile, densely clustered spikelets, the lower fascicles, shortly stalked, bearing densely to loosely clustered spikelets; bract subtending each fascicle leaf-like, lowest bract overtopping whole inflorescence. Spikelets 3-5 mm long, 1(-2)-flowered, if 2-flowered with second flower male. Glumes dark red-brown, dull to somewhat glossy, with a prominent cream centre; midrib slightly scabrid; lower 1-3 glumes usually empty, often mucronate. Hypogynous bristles 6, > nut. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut slightly less than 1.0 x 0.5 mm, white with the 3 angles green or yellow, elliptic-oblong, almost globose, obtuse, apiculate, surface when viewed with a lens, minutely cellular, individual cells rather small.

Flowering:

August - April

Fruiting:

September - June

Threats:

Not Threatened but not very common either. Possibly qualifies as a Sparse species

*Attribution:

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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2036



Caption: In cultivation. Oct 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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