



Carex potens

Common Name(s):

bastard grass, hook sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand. North Island (Mt Egmont, Central Volcanic Plateau, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges), South Island.

Habitat:

Mostly montane to alpine, rarely coastal in southern part of its range. In forests, subalpine scrub and frost flats

Features*:

Stoutly erect, densely caespitose, yellow-green to dark green plants. Culms 100.0-800.0 × 0.5-1.0 mm diameter, sharply trigonous, scabrid below inflorescence, often drooping; basal sheaths dull dark brown. Leaves 3-4 per culm, = or slightly < culms, 1.5-2.0 mm wide, yellow-green to dark green, margins harshly scabrid, slightly involute when dry. Spikes 50-140 mm long, female flowers c.15-20, lax, internodes 11 mm long at base of spike, 3-6 mm long above. Glumes ± = or rarely much < utricles, persistent, obtuse or lowermost subacute, coriaceous, pale brown. Utricles 6-7 × c.1 mm., plano-convex, lanceolate or oblong-lanceolate, grey-brown, nerved, slightly contracted or cuneate at the base forming a stipe 1.5-2.0 mm long, beak 2 mm long

Flowering:

October - November

Fruiting:

November - January

Threats:

Not Threatened

***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=2280