



Carex uncinata

Common Name(s):

bastard grass, hook sedge, kamu, matau-a-maui

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous: New Zealand. North, South, Stewart, Chatham and Auckland Islands. Also in the Hawaiian Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane (up to 1000 m a.s.l.). Widespread and common in most indigenous habitats from dense forest to open shrubland. Rarely colonising the margins of wetlands. Sometimes found as an urban weed in hedgerows, along river banks or in parks.

Features*:

Caespitose, yellow-green to dark green sedge. Culms 100–900 x 1.0–1.5 mm, glabrous, or occasionally scabrid just below inflorescence; basal sheaths dull brown. Leaves 5–10 per culm, ± = culms, or > flowering culms, 2–5 mm wide, dark green or occasionally reddish green, strongly scabrid on the margins and on the adaxial surface towards the tip. Spikes 55–200 x 2.0–3.5 mm, usually bracteate, female flowers numerous, usually c.60–120, very closely crowded throughout almost the whole spike, internodes 0.5–1.5 mm long. Glumes usually < but occasionally slightly > utricles, deciduous, ovate, obtuse or subacute, coriaceous, yellowish with a green midrib or often entirely dark brown, occasionally greenish pink. Utricles 4–5 mm long, slightly > 1 mm. diameter, plano-convex or concavo-convex, lustrous, with usually one prominent lateral nerve on the abaxial face and 3–4 faint nerves on the adaxial face, yellowish to dull brown, stipe 1.0–1.5 mm. long, beak slightly > 1 mm. long; scarcely spreading when ripe.

Flowering:

August - December

Fruiting:

Throughout the year

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (18 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970) - see also de Lange et al. (2013).

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Rolfe, J.R. 2013: *Uncinia auceps* (Cyperaceae): a new endemic hooked sedge for the Chatham Islands. *Phytotaxa* 104 (1): 12–20. doi: [10.11646/phytotaxa.104.12](https://doi.org/10.11646/phytotaxa.104.12)

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=2281



Caption: Carex uncinata

Photographer: Wayne Bennett



Caption: Leaf of Carex uncinata

Photographer: Wayne Bennett