



Carex berggrenii

Common Name(s):

Berggrens Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island restricted to the Central Ranges where it is known from one site in the Moawhango. In the South Island mainly easterly from Lake Tennyson south. Apparently not known from Marlborough or Westland

Habitat:

A montane to subalpine (rarely lowland in the southern part of its range) wetland species inhabiting lake, tarn, pond, and stream side margins. It has also been collected from turfs bordering ephemeral wetlands.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous, tufted dark purple red, wine-red, or orange red, tufted, small sedge. Culms 15-30 mm long, glabrous, terete, distinctly flattened above, almost completely enclosed by light brown leaf-sheaths. Leaves 30-60 x 1-2.5-3 mm, linear, concavo-convex, almost flat, nerves very distinct, margins not usually scabrid except towards the rather bluntly obtuse apex. Spikes 3-4 (-6); terminal spike male, distinctly pedunculate; remaining spikes female, 5-8 mm long, ovate, sessile or shortly pedunculate, crowded at same level round base of male spike; leaf-like subtending bracts > inflorescence. Glumes rather < utricles, ovate, cuspidate, or entire and obtuse, membranous, red-brown with a paler brown midrib. Utricles 2-3 x 1.5 mm, biconvex or rarely subtrigonal, elliptic-oblong, turgid, red-brown to dark red-purple above, yellow below. Distinctly nerved at first, smooth at maturity, margins glabrous; beak minute with the scabrid crura very shortly bifid to almost truncate; stipe 0.2 mm long, stout. Stigmas 2-3. Nut 1.5 mm long, trigonous.

Flowering:

October - February

Fruiting:

October - June

Threats:

A biologically sparse species which is not so much threatened as nationally uncommon. However, some populations are now at risk through competition from taller and faster growing wetland weed 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.

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=230



Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Hawkdun Range
Photographer: John Barkla