



## *Carex capillacea*

### Common Name(s):

Sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Indigenous. North and South Islands. In the North confined to the Volcanic Plateau (the Waimarino Plain), and the Moawhango. In the South Island more widespread from Nelson and western Marlborough south to Lakes Te Anau, Manapouri, Hauroko and east to Lumsden. Probably more widespread as it is easily overlooked. Also known from Australia, New Guinea, Malaysia, China, Japan and India.

### Habitat:

Favouring cushion bog, sphagnum bog, seepages, flushes and the margins of ponds, pools, tarns and on seasonally flooded river terraces within montane forest, scrub, and tussock grassland.

### Features\*:

Diminutive, shortly rhizomatous, somewhat flaccid, tufted, matted bright green to yellow-green sedge of damp forest hollows, river terrace wetlands and cushion bogs. Culms 4-10-30 x 0.5-0.7 mm, usually curved (sickle-shaped), plano-convex to terete, smooth; basal sheaths light brown or grey-brown. Leaves < culms, up to 0.5 mm wide, plano-convex to involute, yellow-green, glossy, margins finely scabrid near the acute apex. Inflorescence solitary, terminal spike 5-8 x 3-4 mm, ovate, usually ebracteate, sometimes with the lowermost glume bractiform; female flowers 6-10(-12), male flowers in a terminal spikelet 3 mm long. Glumes < utricles, ovate, obtuse, pale brown, midrib green. Utricles 2 x 1 mm, plano-convex or biconvex, ovoid, green, membranous, nerved, margins glabrous, beak c.0.5 mm long, crura truncate or notched, glabrous, stipe absent or wanting. Stigmas 3. Nut 1.5 mm long, pale cream, bluntly trigonous, ovoid, surface distinctly reticulate pitted; style-base persistent.

### Flowering:

October - December

### Fruiting:

October - July

### Threats:

Biologically sparse and naturally uncommon. This species has a somewhat disjunct distribution. It does not appear to be threatened at the majority of the known sites but it is vulnerable to competition from weeds.

### \*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=231](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=231)



**Caption:** In cultivation. Oct 2007.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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