



Carex edgariae

Common Name(s):

Edgars Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island where confined to western Central Otago especially between Lakes Wanaka and Wakatipu.

Habitat:

A species of montane to subalpine tussock grassland where it grows in wet flushes, seepages and in damp sites near rock overhangs.

Features*:

Reddish-green to wine-red, shortly rhizomatous, tufted sedge. Rhizome 1-1.5 mm diameter. Culms 20-150 x 1 mm, cylindrical, glabrous; shorter culms almost hidden with grey-brown to light yellow-brown leaf sheaths. Leaves > or occasional < culms, 1-2 mm wide, concavo-convex, margins and rarely the keel scabrid toward leaf apex. Inflorescence of 3-6 approximate, sessile spikes. Lowermost spike in well grown plants often distant; terminal spike male, glumes ovate, usually entire, creamy brown; remaining spikes female, clustered round base of male spike, 5-10 x 3-4 mm. Glumes for about 1/2 length of the utricles ovate, almost hyaline with light red-brown striations, midrib cream, scabrid at the apex, apex occasionally extended as a minute awn. Utricles 1.5-2.5 x 1 mm, ovoid-ellipsoid, cream at the base with red-brown to black markings on the upper half, nerves distinct in lower half, margins glabrous; beak minute up to 0.3 mm long, crura entire or minutely bidentate, finely scabrid; stipe usually minute or up to 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 3. Nut 1 x 1 mm, dark grey-brown, obovoid, trigonous with rounded angles.

Flowering:

September - December

Fruiting:

October - April

Threats:

A biologically sparse, naturally uncommon species that appears to be more under collected than it is actually 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.

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

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