



## *Carex enysii*

### Common Name(s):

Enys's Sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands - scarce in the North Island where it is known from two sites (Mangaharuru Range and Mt Ruapehu)

### Habitat:

A species of open, moist stony ground, particularly on or near limestone or chlorite schists. Usually found within tussock grassland or associated subalpine scrub. Sometimes present in montane forest.

### Features\*:

Shortly rhizomatous, swarding dark green to yellow-green diminutive sedge forming a dense, compact turf amongst stones and tussocks. Culms 0-15-100 x 0.2-0.4(-0.5) mm, terete, shallowly grooved; basal sheaths chestnut-brown to yellow-brown. Leaves about equal in length to culms, 0.3 mm wide, plano-convex, hair-like, lamina involute just above wide brown sheath, margins smooth, apex obtuse. Inflorescence solitary, terminal, spike of tightly clustered flowers. Female flowers 2-3 overtopping the 1-2 male flowers. Lowermost female glume bractiform, 4-7 mm long, upper female glumes 3 mm long, ovate, acute, brown, midrib green, margin hyaline. Utricles 2.5-3 x 1-2 mm, ovoid, sub-terete, pale brown to very light brown, irrespective of colour becoming distinctly paler toward the base, smooth, glabrous, tapered to a darker beak 1 mm long with a hyaline, oblique orifice; stipe minute or absent. Stigmas 3. Rhachilla enclosed within utricle 1 x 0.3 mm at the base, tapering to a bluntly truncate apex. Nut 1.5 mm long, obtusely trigonous.

### Flowering:

October - December

### Fruiting:

October - April

### Threats:

Biologically sparse and probably also overlooked as it is rather small and inconspicuous. At present it does not seem to be threatened although some populations are probably vulnerable to invasive weeds.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (8 August 2007). 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=234](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=234)



**Caption:** Mount Arthur.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe from a specimen collected by Graeme Jane.



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