



Carex lachenalii subsp. *parkeri*

Common Name(s):

Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island from Nelson to Fiordland.

Habitat:

Favouring high altitude sites (> 1000 m.a.s.l.) this sedge has been collected from damp seepages within tussock grassland, from cushion bogs and on the margins of streams.

Features*:

Tufted sedge arising from a deeply rooted, ascending rhizome. Culms 30-200 x 1 mm, trigonous, wiry and pliant, glabrous, sometimes scabrid above; basal sheaths cream, grey or light brown. Leaves < culms, < 2 mm wide, somewhat striated, distinctly channelled or occasionally flat, graminaceous, apices obtuse to subacute, margins faintly serrulate towards the apex. Inflorescence a single dark brown terminal head, 8-15 mm long, composed of 2-4 contiguous spikes; subtending bracts scarcely different from glumes. Spikes 5-8 mm long, with male flowers confined to the base. Glumes equal to, or slightly less than utricule length, broadly ovate, obtuse to sub-acute, dark brown with lighter brown midrib and broad, pale brown, hyaline margins. Utricles 2.5-3 x 1.5 mm, plano-convex, oblong-ovoid, indistinctly nerved, margins glabrous, contracted to a narrow, dark brown or black beak 0.5-0.6 long, this puckered below to form a broad, pale brown stipe < 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 2. Nut 1.5-1.7 mm long, light brown, oblong-obovoid to almost orbicular.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

October - April

Threats:

Believed to be biologically sparse and naturally uncommon. However this sedge is not often collected, and further field work into its conservation status is needed.

*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=236



Caption: Homer tunnel, Jan.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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