



Carex tenuiculmis

Common Name(s):

slender wine sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Declining

Distribution:

Endemic. South, Stewart and Chatham Islands (both Chatham (Rekohu) and Pitt Islands)

Habitat:

A sedge of lowland to montane slow flowing stream sides, lake margins, tarns, ponds and associated wetland vegetation. This species usually grows in association with other carices including *Carex coriacea* Hamlin, *C. diandra* Schrank, *C. gaudichaudiana* Kunth, *C. secta* Boott and *C. virgata* Sol. ex Boott. It does not like tall vegetation.

Features*:

Tussock forming sedge of wetland margins. Rhizomes short and spreading, not forming a trunk. Leaves 250-800 x 2.4-3.2 mm, ascending and spreading, channelled, soft, red, wine-red, or red-green, keel and margins scabrid. Culms 200-500 x 1.8-2.1 mm, glabrous to near triquetrous in lower part, scabrid and trigonous in upper part; similar in length to, or shorter than, the leaves; basal sheath up to 90 mm long, red or red-green, becoming straw-coloured when dry. Inflorescence 80-140 mm long, usually with a single proximal branch, without subtending bract; spikes 1.5-15 mm long; upper spikes crowded and more or less sessile. male florets distal. Glumes 2.1-3 x 1.9-2.2 mm, shorter than utricles, ovate, membranous, persistent, acuminate, light-brown, with a straw-coloured midrib, margins hyaline. utricles 2.3-3.5 x 1.6-2.3 mm, broad or narrow, plano-convex, ovoid, turgid, light brown to brown, smooth, shining, nerves distinct at base; beak 0.5-0.8 mm long, entire or with minute crura; stipe 0.2-0.4 mm long, beak and upper part of utricles winged, with scabrid margins, cream to light brown. Stigmas 2. Nut 1.7-2 mm long, biconvex, ovoid to obovoid, light-brown.

Flowering:

November - December

Fruiting:

January - May

Threats:

Once regarded to be seriously threatened, critical survey throughout its range has located many more populations, the majority of which occur in secure habitats and locations. The biological pattern of distribution now suggests that this species is normally uncommon, and while it can at times be locally common, it is more usually a minor (sparse) component of wetland systems. That said, it is evident that some populations, especially those in northern Canterbury are more at risk from development than others.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2005). Description based on Heenan & de Lange (1997).

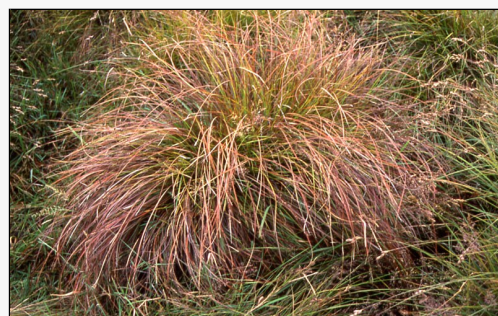
References and further reading:

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P. J.; Murray, B. G. 1997: *Carex tenuiculmis* comb. et stat. nov. (Cyperaceae), a threatened red-leaved sedge from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35: 159-165.

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=238



Caption: *Carex tenuiculmis*
Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: *Carex tenuiculmis* close up of spikelets
Photographer: Colin Ogle, Ex Cult. 20th Dec 1986, Springs Junction,