



Carex subtilis

Common Name(s):

Handsome Bastard Grass, Handsome Hook Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. South Island, from Canterbury south through Otago to Fiordland. Also recorded from Tasmania.

Habitat:

A very uncommon upper montane to subalpine species of short tussock grassland, or shady locations under scrub and under low rock overhangs. Sometimes in open dry rocky ground.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous, spreading sedge form loose turfs. Rhizome 1-1.5 mm diameter. Culms 40-300 x 0.5-1 mm, erect, usually glabrous, occasionally weakly scabrid just below inflorescence; basal bracts dull grey-brown. Leaves 4-10 per culm, < or more or less to culms in length, 1-2 mm wide, soft, somewhat flaccid. Spikes 15-30 x 2-4 mm, cylindrical, ebracteate, female flowers about 10, close-set with lower ones usually lax. Glumes slightly < utricles, persistent, obtuse, coriaceous, straw-yellow with brown flecks and/or markings, or dark brown or brown tinged, midrib green. Utricles 4-5 x 1-1.5 mm, plano-convex, obovate-oblong, grey-brown with dark brown nerves, finely hispid on margins and both surfaces of upper half, beak tapering c. 1mm long, stipe scarcely narrowed, 0.4-0.5 mm long.

Flowering:

November - December

Fruiting:

November to June

Threats:

Believed to be a naturally uncommon, ecologically sparse species. However it is poorly known from large parts of its reported range. Further survey to ascertain its exact status is much desired.

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1979). Fact sheet prepared by Peter J. de Lange 17 August 2006.

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=334