



Carex longifructus

Common Name(s):

Bastard grass, hook sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known from the Raukumara, Ruahine and Tararua Ranges. In the South Island locally known from Nelson, Marlborough, Westland, Canterbury, North Otago, said to be more common in Fiordland.

Habitat:

A species of shaded slopes and peaty hollows within montane forest and subalpine scrub. Exact habitat preferences are not known.

Features*:

Somewhat flaccid-leaved, openly caespitose, stoloniferous, rather long-spreading sedge. Stolons rather fine, < 0.5 mm diameter. Culms 30-200 x 0.5 mm, rather rigid, glabrous, basal bracts very light brown or straw coloured. Leaves 3-7 per culm, rather flaccid, equal to or < culms, slightly < 1 mm wide, involute to channelled, involute when dry, midrib distinctly thickened and paler, lamina with margins scabrid near leaf apex. Spike 10-15 x 2-4 mm, female flowers 5, close-set, internodes 1-1.5 mm long. Glumes slightly < or equal in length to utricles, deciduous, lanceolate, acute, membranous to chartaceous, midrib pale green. Utricles 4.5-5.5 x 1 mm, trigonous with a prominent lateral nerve, or subtrigonus and almost smooth, elliptic-lanceolate, olive-green, spreading when ripe, stipe indistinct, scarcely narrowed, up to 1 mm long, beak tapering, 1.5 mm long.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

October - May

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 (1970). 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=335



Caption: Alpha Hut, Tararua Forest Park. Mar 2008.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Near Alpha Hut, Tararua Forest Park. Mar 2008.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe