



## *Carex purpurata*

### **Common Name(s):**

Purple Bastard Grass, Tussock Hook Grass

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. South Island, Canterbury (Fox Hill), Otago (hills near Dunedin, Ben Lomond, Mt Bengier and other peaks and ranges of Central Otago) and Southland

### **Habitat:**

A species of damp, open ground under montane forest and subalpine scrub, in tall tussock grassland, in grey scrub and in or near cliff faces. It prefers damp sites in seepages, near small springs or under rock overhangs.

### **Features\*:**

Tufted, caespitose, gracile sedge. Culms 40-400 x 0.5 mm, finely scabrid below inflorescence; basal bracts dull brown to yellow brown. Leaves 3-5 per culm, much < than mature culms in length, 1-2 mm wide, erect or slightly curved, faintly scabrid on the margins and undersides, especially towards the leaf apex. Spikes 25-40 x 3-4 mm, ebracteate, female flowers 10-20, close set, becoming rather lax at maturity with internodes up to 5 mm apart near base of spike, 1.5 mm above. Glumes mostly 1/2 to 3/4 glume length, persistent, broadly ovate, obtuse or lowermost subacute, coriaceous, bright chesnut-brown with a green or light brown midrib and broad, whitish to white-grey hyaline margins. Utricle 4.5-5.5. x 1-2 mm, plano-convex, oblong or obovate, dark brown with numerous faint veins, beak 1-1.5 mm long, stipe c. 1 mm long.

### **Flowering:**

October - November

### **Fruiting:**

October - April

### **Threats:**

This species is never abundant at any particular location and is quite widespread, though rather localised, being a truly biologically sparse, naturally uncommon sedge. It does not appear to have suffered any decline, indeed as a result of field surveys over the last 20 years it is now known to be quite secure and widespread over much of its range.

### **\*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=336](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=336)