



## *Carex parvispica*

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

Bastard Grass, Hook Sedge

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

Data Deficient

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. South Island in the east from near Tarndale, Marlborough south.

### **Habitat:**

low montane to subalpine in wet or boggy ground within tussock grassland. In Otago it is often found at the base of tors, stream banks, or in seepages.

### **Features\*:**

Blue-grey to dark green shortly rhizomatous, spreading, turf-forming sedge. Rhizomes 1-2 mm diameter. Culms 70-300 x 0.5-1 mm, erect, usually glabrous, though occasionally faintly scabrid just below inflorescence; basal bracts dull grey-brown. Leaves 6-9 per culm, blue-grey to dark green, < or rarely almost equal to culm in length, 1.5-4 mm wide, very stiff. Spikes 10-20 x 4-7 mm, oblong to obovate, ebracteate, male flowers obscured by larger surrounding female flowers; these 10-15 in number, close-set, internodes about equal. Glumes same length as utricles, persistent, ovate, obtuse or subacute, coriaceous, straw-coloured, rarely light greyish brown with abroad, pale green midrib, the central nerves thickened and conspicuous. utricles 4.5-6 x 1.5-2 mm, plano-convex, elliptical, coriaceous, grey-brown, nerved below and with a prominent lateral nerve, hispid on margins and both surfaces of upper half, beak and stipe scarcely narrowed, 0.5 mm long.

### **Flowering:**

October - December

### **Fruiting:**

October - 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 (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=337](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=337)