



Uncinia viridis

Common Name(s):

Green Bastard Grass, Bastard Grass, Hook Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart islands. In the North Island found mainly in and around the Central Volcanic Plateau and the adjoining main axial mountain ranges. In the South Island more widespread from Nelson to Otago and probably Southland. Said to be common on Stewart Island.

Habitat:

Montane to alpine in wet hollows within tussock grassland and herbfield. Never common.

Features*:

Openly caespitose to shortly rhizomatous bright green sedge. Culms 20-250 mm long, usually < 1 mm diameter, glabrous; basal bracts dull yellow-brown to dark brown. Leaves 7-8 per culm, equal to or less than culms, 1.5-2 mm wide, channelled, somewhat rigid, curving downwards, coriaceous, bright green, glossy, scabrid on margins and undersides. spikes 15-50 x 3-4 mm, sometimes bracteate, female flowers 5-15, close-set, internodes 1-2 mm. Glumes > utricles, deciduous, ovate, subacute to acuminate, pale brown-green to light brown, membranous. Utricles 4.5-5 x 1.5 mm, trigonous, ovate, green to grey-brown, rather dull, smooth aside from prominent lateral nerves, slightly pinched below a 1 mm long stipe, and tapered above to a 1.5 mm long beak.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

October - June

Threats:

A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species occurring in widely scattered, sometimes quite extensive populations.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 August 2004). Description based on Moore & Edgar (1961) - see also Lehnbach (2011) where this species is treated as a synonym of *Uncinia rupestris*.

References and further reading:

Lehnbach, C.A. 2011: Re-evaluating species limits in *Uncinia angustifolia*, *U. caespitosa* s.str., *U. rupestris*, *U. viridis* and *U. zotovii* (Cyperaceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 24: 405-420.

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=338



Caption: Mangatepopo (February)

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth