



Carex flacca

Common Name(s):

carnation sedge

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Usually in wetlands and often invasive in poorly drained pasture or pasture bordering wetlands. Tolerant of heavy shade and full sun. Often favouring soils overlying calcareous or other base-rich substrates

Features*:

Rather stiff blue-green tufted sedge forming extensive patches. Rhizome widely creeping. Stems 100 -600 mm high, \pm terete to \pm 3-angled, smooth. Leaves 2-3 mm wide, $<$ stems, double-folded to \pm flat, stiff, often curved, rather harshly scabrid; sheaths dark brown, often bright red-tinged. Inflorescence 50-100 mm long, of 4-6 dark brown, pedunculate spikes, terminal 1-3 male, rest female, often a remote lowermost spike on an extremely long peduncle from near base of stem; subtending bracts leaf-like, $\pm =$ or $>$ inflorescence. Male spikes $\pm 30.0 \times 1.5$ mm; glumes narrow, obtuse, dark brown with lighter brown midrib not reaching tip of glume. Female spikes 20-45 $\times \pm 4$ mm, often male at top; glumes $<$ utricles, oblong-ovate, subobtuse, dark purple-brown with broad, lighter green to brown midrib. Utricles $\pm 2.0-2.5 \times 1.5$ mm, obovoid to \pm orbicular, often inflated, papillose, red-tinged throughout or green with red patches, beak minute, orifice truncate, dark red. Stigmas 3. Nut ellipsoid, trigonous.

Flowering:

Late spring

Fruiting:

summer

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

Healy, A.J.; Edgar, E. (1980). Flora of New Zealand, Volume III. Adventive Cyperaceous, Petalous and Spathaceous Monocotyledons. Government Printer, Wellington. 220pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-factsheets/freshwater-pest-species>

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3596



Caption: *Carex flacca*

Photographer: Paul Champion



Caption: *Carex flacca*

Photographer: Trevor James (AgResearch)