



Carex vulpinoidea

Common Name(s):

fox sedge

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered and locally common in Northern North Island to the central volcanic plateau, also Tasman and Westland, rare elsewhere.

Habitat:

Wet pasture and swampy waste places.

Features*:

Dense stiff clumps, 50-80 cm high. Stems firm, erect, sharply 3-angled, harshly scabrid on angles just below inflorescence. Leaves usually > stems, 2-5 mm wide, ± flat, strongly scabrid; sheaths long, membranous, transversely-rugulose for 2-4 cm below mouth. Inflorescence a very dense, ± cylindrical, ± lobed, spiciform panicle 6-10 × ± 1 cm, green to light brown. Spikes numerous, sessile, very crowded above, lower ones more distant with setaceous bracts < inflorescence, male flowers at top of spikes, female flowers densely crowded. Glumes much < utricles, ovate with far excurrent midrib. Utricles 2-2.5 × 1.5 mm, ovate, plano-convex, faintly nerved on convex face, tapering to a narrow bifid beak ± 1 mm long with sparsely scabrid margins. Stigmas 2. Nut almost spherical, biconvex.

Flowering:

Late spring to early summer

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Healy and Edgar (1980).

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=3620



Caption: *Carex vulpinoidea*.
Howarth wetland, Te Aroha
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: *Carex vulpinoidea*.
Howarth wetland, Te Aroha.
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth