



Cyperus alternifolius subsp. *flabelliformis*

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered in many parts of North island (usually close to habitation) and also in Christchurch.

Habitat:

Margins of water bodies and in drains.

Features*:

Rhizome short, stout. Stems to 60 cm high, stout, subterete. Leaves reduced to closely appressed, very pale brown basal sheaths. Involucral bracts many, \pm equal, to 25 cm \times 10 mm, $>$ inflorescence, tips shortly acuminate. Inflorescence a compound umbel; rays many, to 8 cm long. Spikelets in small clusters at tips of rays, \pm 4 \times 2 mm, ovoid to linear-oblong, compressed, shining. Glumes densely imbricate, \pm 2 mm long, ovate, obtuse, hyaline, white to light brown with green keel. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut \pm length of glume, trigonous, ovoid-ellipsoid, brown (Healy and Edgar, 1980).

Flowering:

Summer to autumn

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*Attribution:

Prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).
Features description from Edgar and Healy (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.

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication. <http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3778



Caption: *Cyperus involucratus*
Photographer: Trevor James (AgResearch)



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