



Cyperus congestus

Common Name(s):

purple umbrella sedge

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Scattered throughout the North Island and Nelson, Marlborough and Canterbury, locally common in many areas.

Habitat:

Wet areas such as the banks of rivers and streams, swamps, ditches and also a weed of drier sites such as roadsides and cropping land.

Features*:

Thickly tufted perennial. Stems 15-40- (80) cm high, rather robust, 3-angled, smooth, leafy and somewhat bulbous and woody at base. Leaves usually < stems, to 7 mm wide, flat, margins smooth below, scabrid towards tip; sheaths purple-brown, minute transverse septa evident. Involucral bracts 3-6, leaf-like, the lowest > inflorescence. Inflorescence a simple or compound umbel or reduced to a single head; rays 2-4, rather rigid, to 6 cm long. Spikelets numerous, 10-20 × 2 mm, narrow-linear, acute, in dense ovate or hemispherical reddish-purple spikes; rhachilla with membranous wings. Glumes ± 3 mm long, not closely imbricate, usually tightly appressed to rhachilla, oblong-elliptic, acute, many-nerved, keel green, margins deep red-purple. Stamens 3. Style-branches 3. Nut ± 1/2 length of glume, obovoid-oblong, trigonous, dark brown, apiculate.

Flowering:

Summer to autumn

Fruiting:

Summer to autumn

*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.

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=3791



Caption: Base of inflorescence. Whangaehu River mouth. Feb 2013.
Photographer: Colin Ogle



Caption: Whanganui. Apr 2012.
Photographer: Colin Ogle