



Carex devia

Common Name(s):

Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Nelson where confined to ultramafic rocks (Mt Dun, Red Hills and Upper Takaka River (Asbestos Hut area))

Habitat:

A common species of open ultramafic scree, boulder field, tussock grassland and under low lying scrub. Also common on old mine workings in the upper Takaka and at Dun Mountain.

Features*:

Rather loosely caespitose, reddish green to yellow-green sedge of ultramafic shrubland, tussock grassland, scree, pavement and boulder field. Culms 70-750(-900) x 1 mm, usually much > leaves, subtrigonous, glabrous or finely scabrid; basal sheaths brown, dark brown, to almost charcoal black, occasionally red-tinged. Leaves 70-300 x 1.5-2.5 mm, usually crowded at base of culm, channeled, often involute, rather stiff, margins scabrid. Spikes 2-4, ± distant, sessile usually with the lower 1-2 shortly pedunculate; terminal 1-2 spikes male, these 1.5-3 mm diameter, typically clavate, rarely with a few female flowers near the base, female spikes 0-30 x 5 mm. Glumes (excluding awn) just < utricles in length, ovate, acute, sometimes emarginated, coriaceous, red-purple or red-brown with a green midrib prolonged to a hispid awn or varying length. Utricles 3 x 1.5 mm, unequal, biconvex to plano-convex, ellipsoid, light brown at base, darker brown above, distinctly nerved, abruptly narrowed to a 0.2-0.5 mm beak, this deeply cleft with divergent teeth, crura scabrid, utricle other glabrous, stipe 0.5 mm. Stigmas 2. Nut 1.8-1.9 mm, biconvex, oblong.

Flowering:

September - December

Fruiting:

September - June

Threats:

A local, range restricted endemic abundant within the ultramafic communities it favours.

***Attribution:**

Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

References and further reading:

Moore, L.B.; Edgar, E. 1970: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. II. Government Printer, Wellington.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

For more information, visit:

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