



## *Carex elingamita*

### Common Name(s):

Three Kings Sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. Three Kings Island group where it is present on Great (Manawa Tawhi), North East, South West, West Islands and at least Hinemoa Rock in the Princes group. Naturalised in Auckland City

### Habitat:

A species of shaded sites under dense forest, often around petrel burrowed ground, boulder falls and rubble.

### Features\*:

Rather leafy, light to dark green, tussock forming sedge of shaded forested slopes and boulder field. Culms up to 1 m x 1.5 mm, trigonous, smooth; basal bracts light brown. Leaves < culms, 5-10 mm wide, double folded, margins finely scabrid. Inflorescence of 10-12 compound or simple green to grey-green spikes, 60-80 x 5 mm, the lower 2-4 more or less distant on long erect peduncles; terminal spike male, remaining spikes female below with upper third or more male. Glumes equal or < utricles, linear-lanceolate, membranous (somewhat chaffy when old) with red-brown flecks, truncate or almost emarginated, midrib prolonged as a rigid, strongly scabrid awn. Utricles 4-4.5 mm long, trigonous, elliptic-lanceolate, strongly nerved, erect or slightly recurved, membranous, grey-green, margins glabrous, beak slightly > 1.5 mm long. Margins glabrous, crura scabrid not oblique. Stigmas 3. Nut 2 mm long, red-brown.

### Flowering:

September - December

### Fruiting:

October - May

### Threats:

Not threatened and very common but listed because it occupies a small geographic range.

### \*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:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=393](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=393)



**Caption:** West Island, December 1996

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange



**Caption:** West Island, December 1996

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange