



## *Carex filamentosa*

### **Common Name(s):**

Stewart Island Sedge

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. South and Stewart Islands. In the South Island confined to Southland where scarce. Stewart Island locally common throughout.

### **Habitat:**

A species of damp sites in damp ground within montane to subalpine scrub, shrubland and open grassland.

### **Features\*:**

Rather densely tufted stoloniferous, pale green to reddish green sedge. Culms 30-120 x 0.5 mm, terete, faintly striated. Leaves up to twice the length of the culms, 0.5 – 1 mm wide, plano-convex, nerved on the under surface, smooth on the upper, rather finely scabrid toward the apex. Inflorescence of 2-4 spikes; these crowded toward the top of the culm, usually with at least some of the lowermost distant. Uppermost spike rather slender, male; remaining spikes mainly female, shortly pedunculate, rarely with some male flowers toward the top. Bracts subtending spikes, long, filiform and leaf-like. Glumes < or sometimes = to utricles, ovate, chartaceous to membranous, pale cream, brown- or red-flecked, midrib distinct extended as a smooth finely scabrid awn. Utricles 2.5-3 x 1.5 mm, plano-convex or subtrigonal, elliptic-lanceolate, light brown with reddish brown markings towards the beak, distinctly nerved; beak slightly narrowed, 0.5 mm long, margins smooth, crura finely bifid; stipe minute. Stigmas 3. Nut 1.5 mm long, red-brown, trigonal, obovoid

### **Flowering:**

October - February

### **Fruiting:**

October - May

### **Threats:**

A naturally uncommon sedge which is by and large confined to Stewart Island. It may be threatened in some parts of its Southland coastal 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:**

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