



## Carex impexa

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, North West Nelson, Kahurangi National Park from the Goulard Downs and Pikikiruna Range south to the Matiri Range.

### Habitat:

A species of forested or tussock-grassland, rupestral communities overlying weakly weathered limestone, marble and calcareous mudstone/siltstone. In these sites *Carex impexa* is found beneath cliffs, on ledges, debris slopes, boulder field and around sinkholes in sites from 630 - 1400 m.a.s.l.

### Features\*:

Tufted, stiffly spreading; shortly rhizomatous, bronze-green, green, brown-green, red-green to red sedge of calcareous substrates. Rhizomes up to 35 mm; 1-1.36 mm diameter, covered by brown striated bracts. Culms 14-900 x 1-1.6 mm diameter, ascending to spreading. Leaf sheaths loose, dull brown, shredding with age. Leaves 45-260 x 1.5-3.6 mm, equal to or greater than, or less than culms, channelled, stiff, recurved, margins and keel red, thickened, scabrid; apex scabrid, trigonous, acuminate.

Inflorescence of 3-5, brown, erect, mostly sessile, congested spikes. Terminal spike male 7-12 mm long, remaining spikes female, 6-10 mm long. Glumes 1.8-2.4 mm, < utricles, brown, ovate-rotund, concavo-convex, subcoriaceous, 3-veined, green maturing brown; margins membranous, mostly entire, becoming lacerate with age, awned or not. Stamens 3. Utricles 2-2.7 x 1-1.4 mm, subtrigonus, broad-elliptic to obovate, brown to dark-brown, smooth, beakless or with short beak, if beaked, then orifice shallowly bifid or entire, crura short. margins below beak sometimes scabrid. Stigmas 3. Nut brown, trigonous.

### Flowering:

November

### Fruiting:

January - March

### Threats:

A sparsely distributed, naturally uncommon species of calcareous substrates which does not appear to be under any obvious threats. *Carex impexa* is uncommon but still present on the Canaan Downs and Takaka Hill portion of the Pikikiruna Range but it is there where it does seem to have declined. Elsewhere it seems secure for the time being.

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (31 May 2005). Description based on Ford (1998)

### References and further reading:

Ford, K.A. 1998: *Carex impexa* (Cyperaceae), a newly described sedge from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 36: 587-592

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* 11: 285-309

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=396](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=396)



**Caption:** In cultivation ex Matiri Plateau. Jul 2007.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe



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