



Carex kermadecensis

Common Name(s):

Kermadec Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Kermadec Islands group where it is known only from Raoul and Macauley Islands.

Habitat:

Coastal forest where it is usually found amongst boulders, rubble and near sea bird nesting sites. Sometimes found in open exposed places but generally prefers shaded situations.

Features*:

Rather robust tufted, light yellow-green to green tussock forming sedge usually of shaded forested slopes. Culms up to 450 mm tall, 2 mm diameter, triquetrous, finely and faintly scabrid just below inflorescence; basal sheaths light brown. Leaves much > culms, 7-10 mm wide, double-folded, margins scabrid. Inflorescence of 5-10 usually compound spikes. Spikes 20-55 x 5-7 mm, approximate or with the lower 2-4 more distant, erect on stiff peduncles; the terminal spike wholly or mostly male, or completely female; remaining spikes female with occasional male flowers at the base; lower subtending bracts leaf-like, much > inflorescence. Glumes (excluding awn) < utricles, ovate-oblong, emarginated or acute, margins fimbriate towards apex, light brown or with minute dark brown flecks, chartaceous to membranous, awns up to 3 mm long, pale green to straw-coloured, scabrid. Utricles 3-4 x 1.5 mm, trigonous, ellipsoid or more or less ovoid, nerves distinct, membranous, grey-brown with red-brown flecks, beak 1-2 mm long, deeply and acutely bifid, orifice and margins of beak and of upper part of utricles usually scabrid. Stigmas 3. Nut 2 mm long, dark brown, trigonous, oblong-obovoid.

Flowering:

October - January

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

A naturally uncommon, range restricted species. However, it has not been seen on Macauley Island since 1989.

*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=397



Caption: Raoul Island

Photographer: Bec Stanley



Caption: In cultivation ex Raoul Island. Oct 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe