



## Carex rubicunda

### Common Name(s):

Sedge

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

### Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known from swamps in the southern Kaingaroa Plain, the Kaimanawa and Ruahine Mountains, and wetlands within Tongariro National Park. Its exact distribution in the South Island is still unclear. It has long been known from from Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri, and has recently (2009-2010) been found at Lake Lyndon (Canterbury) and Lake Wanaka (Otago). It is likely to be found at other sites.

### Habitat:

A species of mainly montane to subalpine lake, tarn, and pond margins. Also found in other ephemeral wetlands, often in places seasonally flooded.

### Features\*:

Diminutive, shortly rhizomatous, stiffly erect, reddish brown tufted sedge with curled leaf apices frequenting lake, pond, and tarn margins, flushes, slow flowing stream and seepage in montane to subalpine conditions. Culms 10-150 x 0.5-1 mm, glabrous, terete, basal sheaths light brown to grey brown. Leaves much longer than culms, 30-300 x 0.5-1 mm, red to red-brown, rigid, plano-convex, occasionally with margins inrolled, striated on undersides, margins finely scabrid, leaf apex obtuse, twisted and curled when dry. Inflorescence 10-15 mm long, usually hidden within foliage towards base of plant. Spikes 3-4(-6), shortly pedunculate to almost sessile, pale yellow-brown, terminal spike wholly male, subterminal spike female or with some males near apex, remaining spikes female, 5-10 x 3 mm, clustered at the same level round base of male spike, all subtended by leaf-like bracts, these about same length as leaves. Glumes equal to or slightly shorter than utricles, ovate, membranous, nerved, pale pink, maturing brown, with green midribs, apices acute. Utricles 1.5-2 x 1 mm, plano-convex, obovoid, smooth or faintly nerved, gradually narrowed at either end, light brown below, trending to darker purple-brown toward the 0.3 mm long glabrous beak, apex hardly bifid, crura minutely scabrid; stipe 0.5 mm long. Stigmas 2. Nut about 1 mm long, obovoid to suborbicular, pale grey-brown.

### Flowering:

October - January

### Fruiting:

October - August

### Threats:

A locally common species of suitable habitats within the Central North Island. Some populations might be at risk from horse trampling, vehicle traffic and invasive wetland weeds. Status in the South Island needs clarification.

### \*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=401](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=401)



**Caption:** Green Form. Ex L. Wanaka

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Carex rubicunda  
**Photographer:** John Hobbs