



## *Carex tahoata*

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

Mountain Teasel Sedge

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

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. North Island, Central Volcanic Plateau from about Lake Taupo South through the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges to the northern Ruahine Range (Makirikiri Tarns, Potae). It may be in the South Island.

### **Habitat:**

Montane to alpine stream sides, lake and tarn margins, wet flushed in tussock grassland and cushion bogs.

### **Features\*:**

Stout, caespitose, red, reddish-green to bronze green sedge up to 0.8 m tall. Culms 100-600 x 0.5-1 mm, trigonous, scabrid on the angles above, or subterete and smooth. Leaves reddish, red-green, 250-600 x 1.5-2.2 mm, conduplicate or subuplicate, scabrid on the margins and upper surfaces, basal sheaths short, 20-100 mm long. Inflorescence 80-200 mm, lowest internode 20-160 mm long, lowest bract sheath 10-20 mm long. Spikes 4-6(-8), terminal spike male, 10-20 mm long; slender, on a peduncle up to 10 mm long or sessile, remainder female, lowest 10-15 mm, upper shorter, 4 mm wide, cylindrical, sessile or the lowest on peduncles up to 10 mm long. Glumes equalling the utricles, oblong, obtuse to subacute to shortly acuminate, pale to red brown with abroad hyaline margin, and a pale midrib not reaching the margin or prolonged as a 0.2 mm or less mucro. Utricles 2-2.5 x 1.3-1.8 mm, ovoid ellipsoid, broadly ellipsoid to suborbicular, planoconvex or unequally biconvex, pale below, very dark brown above, smooth and glossy, margins scabrid on upper half, beak absent, crura up to 20.2 mm long, readily abraded.

### **Flowering:**

November - December

### **Fruiting:**

November - August

### **Threats:**

A naturally uncommon, range restricted sedge abundant within large parts of its geographically confined range.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2005). Description based on Hamlin (1968).

### **References and further reading:**

Hamlin, B.G. 1968: The Genus *Carex* Sect. *Echinochlaenae* Th. Holm in New Zealand: Typification, Classification and Descriptions of New Species. *Records of the Dominion Museum, Wellington* 6: 97-111.

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=402](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=402)



**Caption:** Kaimanawa Range.

**Photographer:** Jeremy Rolfe from a specimen collected by Nick Singers.



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