



Carex trachycarpa

Common Name(s):

Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, North West Nelson, Kahurangi National Park mainly in and around Mt Owen, Mt Arthur, Mt Peel and Mt Mytton.

Habitat:

A calcicole of marble and limestone subalpine to alpine habits where it is found within tussock grassland, herffield, fell field, gravel and rock pavements, usually in and around small ponds, seepages or flushes.

Features*:

Grassy, distinctly tufted sedge arising from stout, shortly ascending, woody rootstock. Culms 70-300 x c. 1 mm, trigonous, grooved, mainly smooth though rather faintly scabrid below inflorescence; basal sheaths light brown. Leaves 5-7(-10) per culm, these less than, equal to or even greater than culm length, 2.5 mm wide, channelled, margins finely scabrid toward the apex.

Inflorescence a compact head 10-15 x 7 mm, comprised of densely packed light or dark brown spikes. Spikes with 1-3 males at the top, lowermost 1-3 spikes subtended by a membranous, lanceolate bract whose mid vein is extended as a long scabrid awn; this sometimes exceeding the inflorescence in length. Glumes equal to or just longer than utricles, ovate, acuminate or occasionally awned, membranous, chestnut-brown to light brown, keel green, scabrid in lowermost glumes entire otherwise, margins hyaline, occasionally very broad towards glume apex. Utricles 3 x 1 mm, plano-convex, strongly nerved, dull, minutely papillose all over; slightly tapering to a beak c.1 mm long with scabrid margins and an oblique, bifid crura; stipe 0.3 mm. Stigmas 2. Nut 1.5 mm, light yellow-brown, plano-convex, oblong, smooth.

Flowering:

November - December

Fruiting:

November - May

Threats:

Not Threatened. A narrow range endemic abundant within its few known habitats, and apparently secure in all of these.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (10 August 2006). Description adapted from Moore and Edgar (1970)

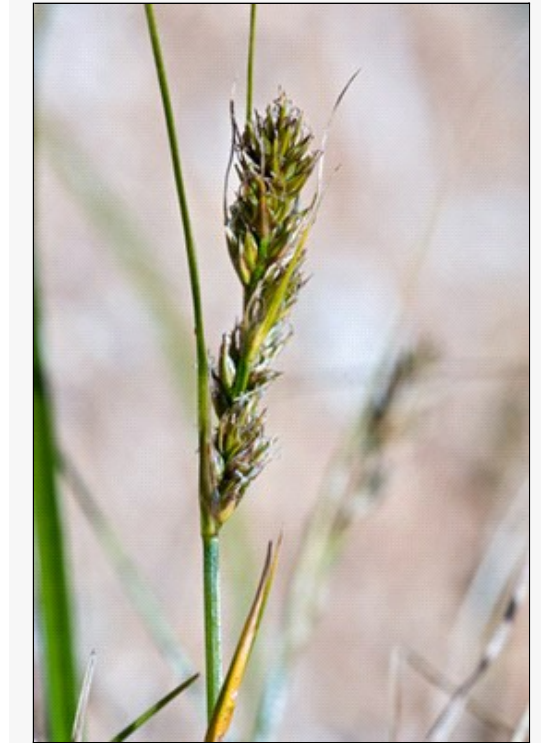
References and further reading:

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=403



Caption: In cultivation. Oct 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe