



Carex uncifolia

Common Name(s):

Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

Distribution:

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known only from the Central Volcanic Plateau from Mt Hauhangatahi and in the nearby Moawhango. In the South Island much more widespread known from the Red Hills, between the Wairau Valley and Nelson, south through Canterbury to Central Otago.

Habitat:

A species of damp seepages, open wetlands and damp turf within tussock grassland. Also abundant in damp sites overlying ultramafic rocks.

Features*:

Shortly rhizomatous, dark purple red to beetroot red, densely tufted sedge up 30-70 x 30-70 mm. Culms completely obscured by light grey-brown, chartaceous, somewhat fibrillose leaf-sheaths. Leaves 0.5 mm wide, dark purple-red, maroon red to beetroot red, much > culms, plano-convex, nerved on the undersides, smooth on the upper surface, margins scabrid, apex subobtuse, often curled. Inflorescence comprised of short densely compacted spikelets, these 3-4 (-5), terminal spike male, rather slender, shortly pedunculate, glumes lanceolate, acute, red-brown; remaining spikes female; these sessile, 5-12-flowered, glumes 3.5 x 1.5 mm, dull red-brown, distinctly nerved, lanceolate, acute with the mid rib extending into a scabrid awn. Utricles 2-3.5 x 1.5 mm, biconvex to obscurely trigonous. Elliptic-lanceolate, spreading when mature, light red-brown, distinctly nerved, narrowed to a more or less scabrid beak 0.5-1 mm long, bidentate, orifice scabrid. Stigmas 3. Nut 1.5 mm long, dark grey-brown, obtusely trigonous, oblong-obovoid.

Flowering:

September - January

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

Naturally uncommon, this species has a biologically sparse distribution, reaching its greatest abundance on ultramafites on the Red Hills, West Dome and the Livingston Range. Elsewhere it is uncommon and some populations have been lost due to weed invasion, trampling from horses and through vehicle damage.

*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=405



Caption: West Dome Mossburn

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Photographer: John Barkla