



Carex ventosa

Common Name(s):

Chatham Islands Forest Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic, Chatham Islands where it is known from Chatham (Rekohu), Pitt, Mangere, Little Mangere, South East, Star Keys and Rabbit Islands.

Habitat:

A widespread sedge of Chatham Island lowland forest. Not found in deep peat and mainly associated with dune forests, coastal forests and tall scrub.

Features*:

Stout, rather leafy, shortly-rhizomatous, tussock forming sedge of forested places and well drained soils. Rhizomes erect, rather short, up to 20 mm wide; loosely covered in fibrous leaf-sheath remnants. Culms 0.45-1(-1.5) m x 1-2.5-4 mm, trigonous, mostly smooth though scabrid below inflorescence. Basal sheaths brown. Leaves = to or > culms, 5-11 mm wide, double-folded, pale green to light glaucous green, margins finely scabrid. Inflorescence 0.2-0.5-1 m long of 7-15 spikes, these either approximate or the lowermost 1-4 distant, occasionally compound, pedunculate; terminal 1-4 spikes male; remaining spikes female, rarely with a few male flowers near their apices, 20-45-60 x 6-8-10 mm. Glumes (excluding awn) < or = utricles, ovate, acute or truncate, membranous with numerous, distinct nerves, colourless (hyaline) except for red-brown striations, and occasional larger dark red-brown markings beside the green midrib; awn scabrid up to 2 mm long. Utricles 4.5-5 x 1.5-2 mm, subtrigonus, ellipsoid, distinctly nerved, light greenish brown, margins quite glabrous; beak narrow bifid, c. 1 mm long, crura slightly scabrid; stipe minute. Stigmas 3, Nut 2 mm long, dark brown, trigonous, oblong.

Flowering:

September - January

Fruiting:

October - May

Threats:

A common, widespread island endemic. It is not threatened on the Chatham Islands.

*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=406



Caption: Chatham Islands
Photographer: Peter de Lange



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