



Carex dolomitica

Common Name(s):

Mt Burnett Sedge

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, where it is known only from Mt Burnett. There it grows on both North and South Peaks.

Habitat:

Confined to open or exposed areas of dolomite and dolomite/limestone/marble karrenfield with little associated vegetation. Plants have also colonised the mining roads and old quarry.

Features*:

Robust, tussock-forming, bronze-green sedge with channelled leaves. Leaves 200-600 x 4-8.5 mm, rigid, erect, channelled, green. Culms 400-850 mm long, stout, ascending or spreading, rigid, trigonous, longer than leaves when mature. Basal sheaths up to 60 mm long, dark brown or black, nerves distinct. Spikes 4-8, up to 40 mm long, erect, upper spikes approximate and sessile, lower 1(-2) spikes distant, shortly pedunculate; spikes subtended by narrow, leaf-like bracts; terminal 1(-2) spikes male; female spikes cylindrical, with three stigmas. Glumes 3.3-3.8 x 1.5-2.3 mm, similar length, or shorter than utricles, ovate, elliptic, chestnut brown at base, pale brown above, persistent, 2-lobed at apex, midrib green, awn 0.2-1 mm, weakly scabrid, green. Utricles 3.2-4.2 x 1.3-1.9 mm, glabrous, broad-ovoid to ovoid, elliptic or narrowly-elliptic, plano-convex or subtrigonus, black with a pale brown stipe and beak. Beak 0.3-0.5 mm.

Flowering:

November

Fruiting:

November-September

Threats:

Carex dolomitica is at serious risk from dolomite mining which is destroying its only known habitat faster than it can recolonise old mine workings. This sedge is also threatened from competition from weeds such as Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) which have recently colonised Mt Burnett. *Carex dolomitica* is the only dolomite endemic to have successfully colonised the mine roads.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2003. Description adapted from Heenan & de Lange (1997).

References and further reading:

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P. J. 1997: *Carex dolomitica* (Cyperaceae), a new and rare species from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35: 423-428.

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=6



Caption: Mt Burnett

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: Mt Burnett, South Peak

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft